

"There is hardly anything in the world that some men cannot make a little worse and sell a little cheaper; and the people who consider price only are this world's lawful prey" - success.

But for quality...

Vent-Axia

THE GUARDIAN

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HO PEPE
SPAIN'S SHERRY
GONZALEZ BYASS

Today



Cher beneath the Mask

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The lord of Glastonbury

PEOPLE Page 11

Wimbledon — the ladies' excuse me

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Monday

STONES OF TIME

The hippies, anarchists and pagans reverse Stonehenge in a way that farmers, tourists and police could never do. An archaeologist defends the peace convoy in Guardian Agenda

NOT QUITE CRICKET

Why do Americans have a different idea of sportsmanship? An American scholar tackles a timely question.

FULL NELSON RIDDLE

'Dogs and children run when they see me coming' — Klondyke Kate meets Guardian Women

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hippies sealed off

THE HIPPIE camp site at Bruton Castle in Wiltshire was sealed off by police last night after the closure of the Westbury white horse monument nearby. Back Page.

Jenkin's 'success'

RATE CAPPING has been a success, says the Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin. Page 3.

Hot shot

AMERICAN scientists "hit" the space shuttle with an experimental Star Wars laser beam from Hawaii yesterday. Page 6.

Steel campaign

ANOTHER campaign was launched yesterday to save Ravenscroft steelworks as closure fears grow. Page 3.

Bid challenge

MR ERNEST SAUNDERS, leading Guinness's £330 million bid for whisky distillers Arthur Bell and Sons yesterday challenged its chairman to "a man to man" meeting.

Private grief

TIGREANS are relying on private traders because food aid is not reaching them. Page 7.

Free voice

THE pet food billionaire who bought New York's Village Voice has promised to let his staff run free. Page 20.

The weather

SHOWERS or longer outbreaks of rain. Details, back page.

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Voters deal blow to Irish coalition

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

The ruling coalition in the Irish Republic suffered a devastating defeat yesterday in the crucial Dublin area from voters using local elections to deliver a mid-term warning.

The opposition Fianna Fail party swept ahead in the city as votes cast in Thursday's elections were counted after a campaign which had deliberately presented the issues as a prelude to a general election.

Most results throughout the Republic confirmed the findings of opinion polls that the coalition parties of Fine Gael

Sinn Féin exclusion move, page 2

and Labour are deeply unpopular. It repeated in a general election, the voting would give Fianna Fail and its leader, Mr Charles Haughey, a landslide victory.

The most demoralising result for Dr Garret Fitzgerald's government was in Dublin, which the coalition parties had dominated politically for more than a decade. The main parties agree that the next general election will be decided there.

Fine Gael strategists had hoped that Dr Fitzgerald's liberal image would counteract the unpopularity of government economic policies in urban areas. But first results showed Fianna Fail support as double that of Fine Gael, which had led the opposition in Dublin in the last local elections.

With most of the city's electoral areas counted, Fianna Fail had 43 per cent of the votes against 20 per cent for Fine Gael. Of even greater significance for the government's future, Labour appeared finally to have been eclipsed by the Marxist Workers' Party in Dublin, taking 10 per cent of the vote against Labour's 9.2 per cent in 10 out of 12 city wards.

Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, also benefited from disillusionment with the government and from its community work in deprived inner city areas. It won about 5 per



Garret Fitzgerald—liberal image falls

cent of Dubliners' votes and was well-placed to take its first seat on the city council.

Sinn Féin also polled well in border areas, taking over as the second largest party in C. Monaghan after Fine Gael.

The Dublin result is seen by all parties as the most significant. The further erosion of Labour's support will put considerable pressure on its leadership to leave the coalition.

Its leftwing has opposed coalition for years, warning that it will leave the party vulnerable to attack from the left.

The coalition parties maintained last night that the outcome could not be translated directly to a general election because of local factors and the relatively low poll in Dublin. But Fianna Fail spokesmen said that some Fine Gael Dail deputies had done badly in one city.

The complete result and overall national picture will not be available until later this weekend.

Labour will preserve a coalition if only because it could face disaster if a general election were held. Mr Haughey is certain to launch fresh attacks on the administration

Shi'ite demonstrators demand freeing of Lebanese prisoners in Israel

Anti-US riot at Beirut airport

From Ian Black in Beirut

In scenes reminiscent of the anti-American rallies in Tehran during the Iranian hostage crisis hundreds of Shi'ite Muslim demonstrators swarmed on to the tarmac at Beirut airport yesterday, attacking the United States and demanding the release of the 700 Lebanese prisoners being held in Israel.

The demonstrators, including many women wearing full-length black chadors, beat their chests and screamed "Allahu

No appeal to Red Cross and Israel keeps options open, page 7

Akbar" (God is great) and cheered as one of the gunmen guarding the hijacked TWA plane shouted through a megaphone: "Muslims do not fear America or Israel, and will not be terrorised by their military machines."

The demonstration, the first of its kind since the crisis began a week ago yesterday, appeared to be part of continuing attempts to warn that if Mr Nabih Berri, the leader of the mainstream Shi'ite Amal movement—who says he is mediating in the affair—cannot resolve it, more extreme Shi'ite groups will take over.

Tension at the airport had risen earlier to erupt for the second day running, gunmen opened fire at television cameras watching the plane from the balcony of the terminal building.

The strained relations between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims in West Beirut broke out into fighting yesterday, against a background of continuing stalemate in attempts to find a solution to the TWA crisis.

Amal officials met to discuss developments, but said there were no plans to return for the 37 American hostages, still being held at four secret locations in the southern suburb of Beirut.

Five of the hostages, apparently in good health, were produced for the world's press at a "news conference" at the airport on Thursday night, in an attempt by Amal to bring

pressure to bear on American public opinion.

The hostages appealed to President Reagan for a second time not to undertake any military action to secure their release, and urged Israel to free the Lebanese detainees it is still holding.

A Kuwaiti newspaper, Al-Wakeel, reported that secret negotiations were going on between Mr Berri and the US ambassador in Beirut, Mr Reginald Bartholomew.

But the Reagan Administration was resigned last night to the prospect of a long haul in its efforts to attain the release of the hostages. According to diplomats in Geneva, the US has withdrawn its request to the Red Cross to approach Israel on the subject.

Amal fighters and members of the Sunni Nasserite Mourabitoun militia traded rocket and machine-gun fire in the centre of West Beirut, down the road from the Commodore hotel, where many of the hundreds of journalists covering the hijack affair are staying.

Earlier in the day soldiers of the largely Shi'ite sixth brigade of the Lebanese army roared down the rubbish-strewn street in the once fashionable Hamra commercial area, forcing Sunni shopowners to open for business.

The Sunni community, one of the principal losers in the Lebanese military and political arena since the convulsions set off by the Israeli invasion three years ago, had called for a general strike in protest against the storming by Amal of the offices of a Nasserite group a few days ago.

Earlier this week the Sunni religious leader, Sheikh Hassan Khaled, chose the occasion of the Aid al-Fitr holiday to criticise Amal for trying to impose total Shi'ite hegemony, and deciding on vital issues such as the future of the Palestinian presence in Beirut on its own.

Sixth brigade soldiers moving through the streets in armoured personnel carriers painted crosses on the shutters of closed Sunni shops, just as Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip mark the premises of striking Palestinians for punishment.

In contrast to the attention still focussed throughout the

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A Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalist catches the tone of yesterday's demonstration at Beirut airport with a banner scoring US threats of retaliation

American TV eye keeps round-the-clock watch

From Ian Black in Beirut

"HEY there," said a voice on the direct line from ABC's New York office. "If you had to write a headline on the story right now, what would it be?"

It was mid-morning in room 320 in the Summerland Hotel, Beirut, and half a dozen correspondents and producers were planning a long day ahead.

Amal, the one producer told "the Good Morning America" programme, executive at the other end, grinning round at his tired colleagues.

As the TWA hijack crisis entered its second week yesterday there were no signs that the round-the-clock pressure on the three big American TV networks—or the

out-thrust competition between New York and here—was letting up.

Early in the day—the seven-hour time difference between New York and here—allowing a while for idle chat over coffee, there was a good deal of self-congratulation over ABC's handling of Thursday night's bi-

zarre press conference, when five of the 37 American hostages were presented to the media surrounded by scores of nervous and heavily-armed Shi'ite Amal gunmen in an airport lounge.

Thanks to a sophisticated communications system set up last Saturday in the Summerland by John Lyons, ABC's London-based radio correspondent, Charles Glass, one of the company's three TV reporters in Beirut, was able to give a five-minute

commentary on the statements by the hostages and the extraordinary scenes of fighting between press photographers and the Amal guards.

The first two minutes' worth of film cassettes were thrown out of the window of the airport lounge and taken by despatch rider straight to a specially chartered plane to Larnaca, in Cyprus. A duplicate film went by road to Damascus—a normal procedure for the networks because there are no satellite transmission facilities in Lebanon.

None of these routine operations is easy, however, in the crazy and sometimes highly dangerous circumstances prevailing here. One NBC man, crunched under the stairs outside the locked and guarded room where the hostages were, found the cord of his telephone suddenly yanked away by the barrel of a Kalashnikov automatic rifle.

There is no object, ABC's Beirut bureau chief told me, of the Summerland chosen for the hijack crisis. It is a secure, comfortable, and centrally located hotel with a swimming pool and the beautiful Lebanese girls who frequent it but, because of its excellent telephone and telex lines and proximity to the airport.

Local Lebanese employees constantly monitor the short-wave radio conversations between the men on the TWA Boeing and the control tower. The hotel has often been shelled in the past, but that is a routine hazard here and there are several comfortably large men with machineguns at the main entrance.

ABC has four lines open 24 hours a day to headquarters in New York. "Do Not Hang Up, Incoming," say the sticky labels on the telephone.

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'Star Chamber' looks towards nineties

By David McKie, Parliamentary Correspondent

Tomorrow's meeting of cabinet ministers at Chequers, called to discuss public spending, is now expected to concentrate on prospects for the 1990s and beyond rather than on decisions facing the Government between now and the end of this parliament.

"Nothing much on this side of the election" was one Whitehall description of the agenda yesterday. The choice between maintaining levels of public spending or making room for tax cuts in the immediate future will be left to the traditional procedure for determining public expenditure.

Leader comment, page 14; Growth up, but prices too, page 19; Chequers inflation question, page 20

which is due to begin next month.

There will be more pressure for tax cuts this weekend. Mr Peter Rees, chief secretary to the Treasury, yesterday followed Mrs Thatcher and Mr Norman Tebbit, who had earlier been rumoured to be going soft on the issue, in publicly commending cuts and further declarations are likely to follow.

Speaking to the Welsh Conservative conference at Llandudno, Mr Rees said: "There are those who say that people no longer want tax cuts—that they would rather the Government spent more and more. I just don't believe it. I still believe people want to keep more of what they earn, to spend how they like, and my contacts on the doorstep, like yours, confirm just that."

This year's public expenditure review will follow the same lines as last year's, despite the conviction of several ministers at the end of the arduous "Star Chamber" process, that some better way had to be found.

The "Star Chamber," headed by a senior minister—Lord Whitelaw last year—arbitrates between the Treasury's demands and the spending departments' defence of their plans. It has been strongly criticised for focusing attention arbitrarily on issues which are subjects of dispute while other areas where more sensible economies might be possible are not examined.

Choices between priorities remain heavily circumscribed by what one minister calls the "built-in inevitabilities," especially the social services, law and order and defence budgets.

Philip Larkin seriously ill after 'minor problem'

By Stephen Cook

The poet Philip Larkin, who refused the post of Poet Laureate last year, was still seriously ill in Hull Infirmary last night after being admitted with breathing difficulties. He is expected to be in intensive care for several days.

Mr Larkin, aged 62, librarian at Hull University, went into a Hull private hospital, the Nuffield Nursing Home, over a week ago when he was having difficulty swallowing. He was hoping to go home after a minor operation but his breathing worsened and he was transferred to the infirmary.

Mr Larkin was made a Companion of Honour a week ago the Queen's Birthday Honours list. He has been awarded many doctorates and literary prizes. He was a popular candidate for the Post Laureateship after Sir John Betjeman died last year.



Philip Larkin—intensive care

After Ted Hughes was appointed it became known that Mr Larkin had rejected an offer of the post, partly because he had published no poetry since High Windows in 1974. Since then his only publication has been Required Writing (1983), a collection of prose pieces.

New head for ballet

By Susan Tirbitt

Anthony Dowell, widely regarded as Britain's leading classical ballet dancer, is to take over as director of the Royal Ballet, it was announced yesterday.

He will replace Norman Morrice, who has been at the centre of widespread criticism of falling standards in the company.

Mr Dowell, aged 45, who was last night dancing the role of a young tutor in A Month in the Country at Covent Garden, officially take up his new job in August 1986. He is to continue as an associate director with the company until then.

Norman Morrice, director since 1977, is to leave when his contract expires at the end of the 1985 season.

Mr Morrice received bad press notices for his most recent productions, Giselle and Swan Lake.

1,139 jobs axed at Metal Box

By Maggie Brown

Metal Box, Britain's main packaging group, is to make 1,139 people redundant over the next three months, it said yesterday. The company, which has reduced its workforce by 43 per cent since 1980, told its 19,000 employees only days ago that it was at last seeing a "better performance" in the United Kingdom.

The main impact is on Portsmouth, where 423 jobs will go because the firm has decided to shut a plastic bottle factory which makes containers for the household "milk" oil and trolley market.

Output is being concentrated at Metal Box's remaining plastic bottle factory in Wrexham. The company blames an over-capacity of 20 per cent in UK production in this sector and poor prices.

Other job losses are divided between six factories and offices in Aintree, Mansfield, Carlisle, Manchester, Swindon and Reading. At Aintree, 210 jobs will go out of a workforce of 608, and at Mansfield 182 out of 902. All factories are in Metal Box's general packaging division, which employs 8,158 people.

Mr Clifford Arrowsmith, Portsmouth district secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, one of the main unions at the city's plant said: "We will oppose this."

Metal Box closed its food-film packaging works, in the town three months ago and the area was being battered by thousands of job losses in the Royal Naval dockyard and British Shipbuilder's Vosper Thornycroft repair yard, he said. "Now the south of England is being affected by the economic impact of government policies."

Metal Box said that the cuts

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Sao Paulo skeleton 'is Mengele'

From Jan Rocha in Sao Paulo

Forensic scientists have concluded that the skeleton recently dug up from a Sao Paulo graveyard is that of Josef Mengele.

A carefully worded statement signed by scientists from Brazil, West Germany, Israel, and the United States said: "The remains are definitely not those of Wolfgang Gerhard (the name under which they were buried). There is reasonable scientific certainty that the skeleton is that of Josef Mengele."

Wilma Teixeira, the head of the forensic team studying the bones, said their conclusions were based on the large number of coinciding points found

between the skeleton and the known physical condition of Mengele.

In addition to the fundamental ones, such as sex, race, and height, there were also signs of the hip fracture suffered by Mengele during a motorcycle accident, and a curved small finger resulting from a childhood accident.

A German technique of superimposing a photograph on the skull had given a positive result. No differing points had been found.

"If you ask me whether it is Josef Mengele, yes or no, I say yes," Dr Teixeira said. Experts had already concluded that handwriting and photographs found in Sao Paulo were of Mengele.

The investigation began three weeks ago, after a tip from the West German police that Mengele was in Sao Paulo. Traced by the Brazilian police, a Hungarian woman, Gitta Stammer, and an Austrian couple, the Bosserts, admitted that they had sheltered Mengele for 18 years, but that he had died while swimming in the sea in February 1979 and been buried as Wolfgang Gerhard.

Meanwhile, Henry Sobel, rabbi and leader of the largest Jewish community in Brazil, issued a statement saying: "Mengele's death does not really affect us. What affected us was his life. He destroyed Jewish bodies and Jewish souls. We will never forget. We will never forgive."



Josef Mengele—'reasonable certainty'

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Defiance campaign 'municipal version of Ten Green Bottles'

Jenkin lauds success of rate-capping

By Tom Sharritt
Rate-capping has been a great success in curbing the extravagance of a few high-spending councils, Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, said yesterday.

Despite threats of illegality, all but one of the 15 designated councils — Lambeth, had fixed a rate, and the campaign of defiance against the Government was all but over, he said.

"What we have seen is a municipal version of 'Ten Green Bottles'," said Mr Jenkin, "Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Basildon, Thamesdown, Leicester — all but one of the London councils have followed suit. We can only hope that in Lambeth also common sense will soon prevail."

Mr Jenkin was speaking in Manchester to businessmen and industrialists at a lunch arranged by the city's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"What these high-spending councils have known all along — despite their claims — was that the expenditure levels and rate limits we proposed required no severe cut in jobs and services, but merely sensible economies," he said.

But it should not have been necessary for central government to protect ratepayers. "The riposte to extravagance

should have come through the ballot box and not through rate limitation orders. Under the influence of targets, holdback, and rate-capping policies, local authorities have at long last squeezed out any real growth this year. At last they are keeping expenditure down in line with inflation.

"In terms of our targets, the aggregate overspend in England — is likely to be well under 1 per cent, just over £200 million. That is the low-est overspend since targets were introduced, and is therefore the justification for all we have done."

If local councils were to be truly accountable to their electorates for their spending decisions, he said, various conditions had to be met:

- Most people voting in local elections should feel that they had a direct financial stake in local spending.
- The link between local spending and local taxation should be clear and comprehensible.
- People with no vote should not be asked to fund excessive spending.

Mr Jenkin said: "Let me make it clear, we have no intention of changing the franchise. We are not moving away from the universal adult franchise."

Reform should be to a system that was more stable and simpler than at present, said Mr Jenkin. It should also protect the non-domestic ratepayer, who paid more than the domestic ratepayer but had no vote.

"No one who cares about the future of democracy in Britain wants to see local government becoming a town hall farce... We are determined to embark on reform which will restore a sense of true local responsibility to local government. Once we do that, central government will be able to stand back and the interference of recent years will become a thing of the past."

Later, Mr Jenkin toured several housing areas in the city with members of the city council.



Patrick Jenkin: 'necessary riposte to extravagance'

Bill on herb-crawling gets qualification

The bill to outlaw herb-crawling suffered a setback in the Lords yesterday when peers agreed during its committee stage that a man would only be committing an offence by soliciting a woman from a car if he did so persistently.

Although the Sexual Offences Bill is a private member's measure, the Government "as given its support to it. The Government spokesman, Lord Glenarthur, yesterday opposed the amendment saying that the bill was "right as it stands."

Insisting that soliciting must be persistent would weaken the bill, making it harder for police to crack down on herb-crawlers, he said, the change would not help the innocent man who asked several differ-

ent girls for direction. Peers should not worry that innocent people could be convicted because there was little chance of a prosecution where only one approach had been made and only a police officer's evidence was available.

But a Labour peer, Lord Mischon, moving the amendment to the bill, which was sponsored in the Commons by Miss Janet Pookes (C. Plymouth, Drake) said that innocent people, such as motorists asking directions, would be at risk if they made a single approach. "We have to have the word 'persistently' in, in order to safeguard innocent people."

The amendment was carried by 33 votes to 27 — a majority of six.

Chaplain accepts Rome

By Marjory Halsall, Church Correspondent
The Anglican chaplain at Lincoln College, Oxford, the Reverend Dr Ralph Townsend, yesterday became the latest member of the Church of England to announce his conversion to Roman Catholicism. He is expected to be received into the Roman Catholic Church next month.

The 33-year-old chaplain, whose wife and two children are lifelong Roman Catholics, said he was seeking admission to the Catholic Church as "a decision of conscience after many months of serious thought" and because of his concern for Christian unity.

"The great Church of the Christian West, held together in unity of the faith by the common loyalty to the Bishop of Rome, the historic symbol of unity in the Christian

Church, is where I find my spiritual home," he added.

In a letter to friends, published yesterday in the Catholic Herald, he said that he had lost confidence in the Anglican Church's ability to move towards visible Catholic unity.

The Church Union, the leading Catholic society within the Church of England, said it has been handling a case a week of Anglicans deciding to become Roman Catholics since the General Synod voted last November to pass legislation for the ordination of women.

Statements by the Bishop of Durham, the Right Reverend David Jenkins, uneasy about proposed marriages of divorced people in Church of England churches, and a "crisis of authority" within the Established Church are other reasons given for the quickening of the Anglican exodus.

Lords delay mother's marriage request

A woman who lived with her father-in-law and had his child after her husband deserted her, yesterday had her plea for special permission to marry referred by the House of Lords to a private committee.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham said that the matter could not be discussed fully in public and peers were being asked to come to a decision without full knowledge of the facts.

Mrs Sonia Billington, aged 36, and Mr Norbury Billington, 62, of Guilval, Pencoese, Cornwall, were asking the lords to approve a private marriage enabling her to marry the man with whom she had lived for 15 years.

Lord Lloyd of Kilgeran, a Liberal peer, who said that the case had caused much human misery.

The Bishop of Chichester, the Right Reverend Eric Kemp, said the couple had lived together for five years and had a child. The relationship had been cited in divorce proceedings, which made the circumstances different from other cases brought before the house.

If the Lords passed the bill, "I think we should appear to be condoning the adultery and its involvement in the divorce and I believe this would be a very serious matter."

Lord Lloyd said that Mrs Billington had married Mr Barry Billington in 1969 when she was 21 and he was 20. In 1980 her husband had taken her and their two young children from their home in Cheshire to his father's home in Pencoese.

Barry Billington told his father that he wanted to live with another woman and that there ought to be a trial separation in fairness to his wife.

Mrs Billington had nowhere to go and stayed in her widower father-in-law's house. Six or seven months later, after all she had gone through, the daughter-in-law and father became attracted to each other and soon afterwards cohabited and lived as man and wife.

About 18 months later a child was born. Divorce proceedings had been introduced before the birth.

Lord Lloyd said that Mrs Billington's children by her marriage, Christopher, now 15, and Chad, 11, wanted the couple to marry and legitimise her four-year-old child by Mr Norbury Billington whose wife died in 1978.

Lord Mischon, a Labour peer, said several factors worked against him, particularly that one of the grounds of the divorce was that Mrs Billington had a child of the relationship with her father-in-law. "The divorce was granted on the grounds of adultery with the father in law and the child of the child."

Lord Hailsham, Conservative, said: "If people make their own beds they must lie on them."

Lord Hailsham said that from his experience divorce cases the tiding of adultery was probably an arrangement between the parties which had not been in the original divorce petition.

"I would hate to see a decision made on this second reading — not necessarily that I do not agree, but I do not believe on second reading we have enough information before us which would enable this House to form a judgment finally on this matter."

He wanted to have the bill discussed at committee stage so that personal details were not bandied in public. "We are being asked to decide this question without evidence and that offends my sense of justice, and it also offends my sense of human decency that these discussions have to take place in public."

The bill was given a formal mopped second reading.

BR blames the weather
British Rail yesterday blamed winter weather for causing problems which led to a 50 per cent increase in complaints about timekeeping, overcrowding and catering in the first three months of this year.

BR said the figures also showed that in March 80 per cent of InterCity and 82 per cent of other trains arrived on time or within five minutes.

Howe shrugs off possibility of defeat

By Alan Travis
SIR Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday tried to discount the impact of a possible Conservative defeat in Brecon and Radnor, saying that in by-elections people often took views of only temporary significance.

In a determined attempt to take the excitement out of the campaign, Sir Geoffrey, who was visiting the constituency, said it was important for the Conservatives to get

a good result but the main thing was to get the Government's economic message across.

"By-elections are often occasions when people take views of a temporary significance, and take views that are certainly not repeated in subsequent general election campaigns," he said.

He pointed out that the Tories did not win every by-election between 1979 and 1983 but had still increased their Commons majority in June 1983.

He conceded that the electorate's "perception of the Government" was fluctuating but argued that this was always likely to happen when a government carried on preaching the same message. Whatever the outcome of the by-election on July 4, the Government would not change its course.

Despite Sir Geoffrey's attempt to minimise the impact of a possible Conservative defeat, no other party has so far managed to present itself as a principal challenger for the seat.

At the beginning of the campaign, Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said: "The Tory votes are there for the taking, but we will have to fight for every Labour vote, which we need if we are to win."

But the Alliance is now looking slightly nervous. Mr Richard Llewellyn, the Liberal candidate, claimed yesterday that Mr Richard Willey, the Labour man, would be the prisoner of Mr Tony Benn if he were elected. But the only evidence he could offer

was that the Labour candidate had shared a platform with Mr Benn in a 600-strong meeting in the 12-hour stronghold of Ystradgynlais.

Labour claimed that this was a sign of Liberal panic.

Not that Labour does not have problems. Mr Allan Rogers, the MP for the Rhondda, started the Labour press conference yesterday by introducing his candidate, mistake as Mr Llewellyn.

"I have been talking too much," he apologised.



Two remand prisoners at Strangeways, Manchester, continue a rooftop protest over the length of time they have been waiting for trial. Paul Massey and Mark Harvey, both 25 and from Salford, face robbery and conspiracy charges. Picture by Don McPhee

Breeding drugs down on the farm

By Andrew Vetch, Medical Correspondent
SCIENTISTS have for the first time produced test tube baby rabbits, sheep, and pigs carrying genes, from mice, opening the way to swapping the genes of farm animals to produce, for example, extra-woolly sheep and fast-breeding pigs.

It should also be possible to turn dairy cows into drug factories, producing genetically-engineered interferon in their milk.

Dr Robin Lovell-Badge of the Medical Research Council's mammalian development unit in London, says in his assessment of the work in Nature magazine: "Last anyone should think this idea is as silly as converting the forelimbs of sheep into needles so they can knit, they should be aware that the use of silkworms for the production of interferon has just been reported."

The techniques used might lead to experiments in cloning farm animals and parthenogenesis in other words, virgin birth.

In the new work the scientists first engineered a combination of a mouse gene and the human growth hormone gene, grew it in mice, then transferred it to the embryos of rabbits, sheep, and pigs, which they had fertilised in their laboratory.

They put the embryos back into the respective animals. Just over 12 per cent of the test tube baby rabbits and 11 per cent of the piglets were found to be carrying the foreign gene. But it survived only in only one of 73 lambs, and had been damaged.

Calves would include faster reproduction, heavier animals, increased disease resistance, and better wool texture, he says.

Campaign to save Ravenscraig told of government 'dithering'

By our Labour Correspondent
A campaign to save the Ravenscraig plant at Motherwell in Scotland was launched yesterday against a background of growing fears that British Steel will close one of its three integrated steel works and repeated assurances by the Welsh Secretary, Mr Nicholas Edwards, that Llanwern — another candidate for closure — seems to be secure.

Mr Edwards said in a BBC radio interview that he believed Llanwern had done enough to justify its continued existence. He was repeating comments made earlier this week in the Commons.

At Motherwell, a Scottish TUC general council member, Mr John Langan, made the

same case for Ravenscraig. By the Government's own criteria, he said, the plant had been a success, with productivity levels now equalling anything to be found elsewhere in the world. But the Government continued to dither over much-needed investment at the works.

Mr Mick McGahey, president of the NUM in Scotland, said miners recognised their part in the struggle to save the plant. Its future and that of Polkemmet colliery, flooded during the miners' strike, were "inextricably linked." The pit could provide 5,000 tonnes of coking coal a week for Ravenscraig.

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation's assistant general secretary, Mr Keith Book-

man, told the Motherwell meeting that Scottish steelmen were not in competition with colleagues in South Wales. Ravenscraig workers did not intend to be part of a survival campaign at the expense of other people's jobs.

Mr Michael Hurst, Tory MP for Strathkelvin and Bearsden, told the meeting that he was certain the Scottish Secretary, Mr George Younger, would defend the future of Ravenscraig as he had in 1982.

An STUC document released at the meeting said that the sure of Ravenscraig would mean Britain depending in the future on imported steel. "It is hardly surprising that there are pressures within the EEC for closure of a major British steel plant."

US veteran 'was ready to kill anyone'

By a Correspondent
A United States army veteran was so deranged that he could have exterminated anyone who crossed his path, the old Bailey was told yesterday.

John Woode, aged 36, who came from St Albans, Hertfordshire, but spent many years in America and served in Korea, stabbed to death the assistant manager of Church's shoe shop in New Bond Street, London, said Mr Allan Green, prosecuting.

Woode, described by psychiatrists as very dangerous and suffering from a persecution complex, was ordered to be detained in maximum security conditions in Broadmoor Hospital. He denied murder but admitted manslaughter, on the grounds of diminished responsibility, of Mr Steven Hindley, aged 28. His plea was accepted.

Woode had gone to the shoe shop to try to change a pair of shoes he had bought a few days earlier. He suddenly



Steven Hindley—stabbed in the neck

individual when he showed complete disregard for my feelings."

Woode said he had not discussed "the topic of the possible execution of the employee, but it was a clear option."

The court was told that Woode received nearly £700 a month from the US Army Veterans Association for injuries he claimed he received in the army.

He believed that he had been attacked and brain-washed while in the service.

"He has delusions that he is being persecuted by organisations through various people," said Mr Richard Gooch, chief medical officer at Brixton Prison.

"His attitude to these people is that they are sub-human and he would have no compunction about using force or extermination."

"Anyone who he believed belongs to an organisation he feels is persecuting him is at the risk of death."

Inquiry on 'race' head

By Michael Parkin
The inquiry will open at Ilkley today into the case of Mr Ray Honeyford, the Bradford headmaster who has been suspended by the education committee after writing articles on multi-racial education for the Salisbury Review.

The school governors are holding the inquiry in strict secrecy. The chairman, Councillor Ernest Kinder, has said that any council employee making statements or releasing documents will be reported to the city solicitor.

Mr Kinder will make a statement at the end of the inquiry, which could last three days. Mr Honeyford will be represented by the Association of Head Teachers, which is demanding Mr Drummond Middle-



Rescue workers try to free the trapped man from the wreckage of the Sea King helicopter

Helicopter pilot killed

A naval helicopter pilot was killed and three men were injured in a crash near Dundee yesterday.

The Sea King Mark II helicopter was ferrying supplies and personnel from a Dutch tanker to RAF Leuchars, near Fife, when it plunged to the ground on a hilltop overlooking the Firth of Tay.

The dead man and another man, who was seriously injured, were trapped in the wreckage. The other two men, who were only slightly injured, managed to free themselves and raise the alarm at a nearby farmhouse.

Peter Clarke, aged 27, whose cottage is only yards from the scene, saw the helicopter as it approached from the north side of the river Tay.

"It was flying at about 600 feet with a large load slung underneath by three cables," he said. "When the helicopter

reached the south bank the load began to spin and one of the cables snapped or broke loose."

"The helicopter began to lose height but the pilot still appeared to have it under control. As it approached Spears Hill the rotor blades seemed to stop and the helicopter plunged tail first, like a stone to the ground."

The dead man was named as Lieutenant Bryan Evans, aged 29, first pilot on the helicopter.

The seriously injured man, and one of the slightly injured victims, were Royal Navy personnel. The other slightly injured man was a member of the Canadian Armed forces.

The helicopter, from 819 Squadron, had been taking part in a naval exercise involving a number of vessels, including the aircraft carrier Invincible, on which Prince Andrew once served.

Bodies found in river

Police divers discovered bodies in the river at Bedford yesterday and believe they may be those of a London businessman, Mr Jack Pieve, aged 60, and his son, Johnathon, aged 28, who disappeared in January 1983.

As well as the decomposed bodies, divers found a blue Mini, similar to the car driven by Mr Pieve at the time he disappeared.

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Crisis could hasten provincial election as Liberals advance

Premier of Quebec to hand over leadership

By Patrick Keatley, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Premier of Quebec, Mr. René Lévesque, has resigned from the leadership of the Parti Québécois which he founded in 1968, thus pitching his part of Canada into a political crisis which may well bring forward the planned date of the next provincial election.

The PQ came to power in a landslide victory in 1976, on a platform calling for absolute independence, with Québec separating from the rest of Canada and acquiring its own flag, constitution, budget, and security forces.

But in 1980 Québec voters rejected separate national status by a decisive margin. At the beginning of this month, Mr. Lévesque's ruling party faced four by-elections and lost them all to the resurgent Liberals, led by Mr. Robert Bourassa.

The PQ has now lost 26 by-elections in a row and holds only 61 seats in the 122-member legislature in Québec City. The Liberals have been closing the gap steadily, and are impatient to force the government to face a general election rather than run its full term to April next year.

● Mr René Lévesque



Shuttle Star Wars tests succeed

From Mark Tran in Washington

With the 1812 Overture pounding in the background, the space shuttle Discovery yesterday carried out the first Star Wars experiment in space. An earlier attempt in the week was bungled.

The experiment came to a successful conclusion when a bluish green laser beam flashed through the darkness from a mountain in Hawaii, streaked 220 miles overhead, and hit a mirror the size of a dinner plate mounted in a shuttle window.

The reflector bounced the beam back to the ground station on top of Mount Haleakala, a 10,000 foot peak on the island of Maui. When the beam left the ground, it was thinner than a pencil, but had spread to 15 feet when it reached Discovery.

The decision to fire the laser was made at the last minute. Eighty miles an hour winds threatened to cancel the spectacular space light show.

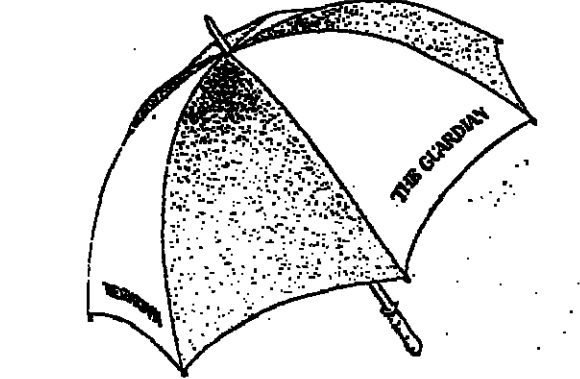
Failure would have been a blow to Star Wars proponents who were keen to score a success to placate the doubters, many of whom happen to be congressional Democrats. The first attempt failed on Wednesday when ground controllers slipped up by sending Discovery's computer instructions in feet instead of nautical miles. The shuttle, instead of pointing the mirror at Hawaii, aimed it in the opposite direction into outer space.

The trial was to determine the accuracy of laser beams sent from earth to bounce off orbiting mirrors in space to destroy attacking missiles in flight or as they were launched. More tests are planned on future shuttle flights.

The latest shuttle flight, which includes a Saudi prince and a French test pilot, has gone unusually well apart from the initial bungled laser attempt. It has launched its satellites without mishap although it faces the task of retrieving the Spartan satellite today which was going to take photos of the Milky Way in search of black holes.

While the Administration could boast of its first Star Wars success, in space the House's decision to chop its Star Wars spending request to \$2.5 billion from \$3.7 billion brought the Administration back to earth. The Senate's figure is \$3 billion and a compromise figure will have to be thrashed out.

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Chilean mummies 'oldest in world'

From Malcolm Coad in Santiago

ARCHAEOLOGISTS from all over the world are descending on the city of Arica in Chile's Northern Atacama desert, to examine what are claimed to be the 'oldest mummies yet found in the world'.

Among the delegations due is one from Egypt, interested in verifying evidence that the mummies not only outdate their better known North African cousins by as much as 3,000 years, but were better preserved.

Some 50 of the mummies were found two years ago while water pipes were being laid at the foot of the Morro Cliff in Arica - itself a prehistoric shrine as it was the scene of a famous assault by Chilean troops in 1980 during the war of the Pacific against Bolivia and Peru.

After examination of the mummies in the Chilean University of Tarapaca, and in the US, the American paleoanthropologist, Dr. Marvin Allison, says that carbon tests have proved them to date from about 6,000 BC.

The mummies, members of the little known Chinchorro culture, were buried upright and were apparently exposed regularly to be restored for what experts believe may have been some religious purpose. They represent one of the most tantalising mysteries in pre-Columbian archaeology: a primitive pre-agricultural and pre-ceramic culture which nevertheless possessed a degree of anatomical knowledge which, in the words of Sylvia Quesada, of the Chilean Natural History Museum, "is far superior to that seen in the mummifications of Egyptian culture."

According to the evidence so far, the bodies were dismembered and the bones removed in what experts call "a highly complicated process." The skin was also removed and the body stuffed with a mixture based on vegetable fibre and feathers.

Poles were then inserted to stiffen the body which was then covered in clay which was modelled to follow the features of the dead person. These masks were then painted in a variety of colours.

In the subsequent examinations, the details of the mummies were restored, apparently over a period of several centuries, even including the replacement of whole limbs.

It is not known for precisely how long the Chinchorro culture survived, nor where it originated, though a total of four sites have been discovered over a 300-mile length of Chile's northern coast and southern Peru.

The mummies owe their long survival to the conditions in the Atacama desert, which is the driest in the world and where salt concentrations also aided in preservation.

The airforce is indignant at sharing a colour with the army. Some Foreign Legionnaires fear they will be taken for policemen. However, traditional leopards and scarves will be preserved, so that paratroopers, for example, will still wear their distinctive headgear.

Khaki will remain for the battalions, while blue will be the colour for parade and dress uniforms. The minister hopes that the change will encourage the right spirit of comradeship throughout the armed forces. According to the French press, airmen and sailors have not yet got beyond the stage of gawping their teeth.

Blackout as bombs hit cities

From our Correspondent in Santiago

CENTRAL Chile was plunged into darkness for three hours when bomb blasts hit power lines. The big blackout 15 smaller bombs went off in the capital, as police swept the streets with searchlights.

Niners were arrested during demonstrations on Thursday night in the capital and the port of Valparaiso.

The blackout hit an 800-mile stretch of country from Copiapo in the north to Concepcion in the south. But power supplies several hundred miles further south were also affected. Five power pylons south of Santiago were destroyed in the attacks.

Troops were put on alert when shortly before the blackout, students took to the streets. They demonstrated in Valparaiso and, in central Santiago, 300 supporters of leftwing organisations held a "hunger march" in an illegal protest against the government's economic policies.

Police broke up the demonstrators with baton charges and water cannon. Several people were hurt.

From Derek Brown in Brussels

IT may not be the biggest US-EEC trade dispute, but it's certainly the tastiest, featuring lemons and pasta, with or without egg.

The story so far: back in 1973, the world's two mightiest trading powers conferred on lemons, oranges, and other citrus matters. The resulting fruiting understanding, called the Casey-Sommes arrangement, established Mediterranean suppliers like Israel and the Maghreb countries, as the EEC's main source of citrus nourishment.

French Socialists split on tactics

From Campbell Page in Paris

In the run-up to next spring's vital National Assembly elections, the ruling Socialist Party has been split by a division between the party secretary, Mr. Lionel Jospin, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Laurent Fabius.

The two men disagree about party strategy and their roles in setting the tone of the campaign. In a letter sent to every member of the party's executive committee, which is due to discuss the dispute on July 8, Mr. Jospin yesterday put his future at stake, and in effect called for a vote of confidence from committee members.

No one expects the Socialists to win a majority in next year's elections, but some members of the party believe that some kind of centre-left alliance could emerge and provide satisfactory support for President Mitterrand in the last two years of his presidency.

In a speech at Marseilles on June 14, which was generally seen as launching the Socialist campaign, Mr. Fabius seemed to be asserting his own leadership of the campaign, and committing himself to the search for a republican front - support from the centre as well as the left.

Mr. Fabius has since explained that he did not interpret a republican front in parliamentary terms, but as a matter of winning support. He was not interested in wooing individual deputies from the opposition, but was thinking of the mood of the electorate and their perception of France's problems.

A few days after the Marseilles speech, Mr. Jospin called a briefing as a sign of protest and then referred the matter to the party executive committee.

The two men met briefly, closely watched by the media, at a reception given by the Prime Minister on Thursday. They were smiling and exchanged only brief greetings.

In his letter yesterday, Mr. Jospin wrote: "The historic task before us is to build, in the next 10 or 20 years, as many European democracies have, a great Socialist force."

The party could not be led from outside, Mr. Jospin said, but he should direct the election campaign himself. It was essential to rally one's own supporters before winning over other people's. He emphasised the importance of being able to attract Communist votes.

While the Communist Party is openly hostile to its Socialist partners, the Socialists naturally hope to attract some Communist votes next year.

Mr. Jospin said that the Prime Minister's role should be to take part in the election campaign as head of government, while the party directed the campaign in its own right.

He went on to explain the division of authority. "The President of the republic, who establishes the broad direction of policy and remains our leader," the Prime Minister, who fixes government policy; the Socialist Party, which supports this policy, but also spreads the Socialist message."



HIGH HIJACKER: Passengers leave a Norwegian Boeing 737 airliner hijacked yesterday on a domestic flight from Trondheim to Oslo by a 24-year-old man police say was a drunken ex-convict with a grudge against authorities. Police said the man, who took over the plane with a gun as it landed at Oslo airport, surrendered peacefully after three hours to a policeman in return for more beer. The hijack was the world's fourth in two weeks, but the first in Norway

Airforce sees red at army blues

From our Correspondent in Paris

After two years work by a special committee on uniforms in the armed forces, the Defence Minister, Mr. Charles Hernu, is expected to dress soldiers in blue, just like the airforce and the navy.

The army blue, slightly paler than the navy's, will be used for unisex blouses, although the men's will have four gold buttons to the women's three. Women will continue to wear skirts.

The airforce is indignant at sharing a colour with the army. Some Foreign Legionnaires fear they will be taken for policemen. However, traditional leopards and scarves will be preserved, so that paratroopers, for example, will still wear their distinctive headgear.

Khaki will remain for the battalions, while blue will be the colour for parade and dress uniforms. The minister hopes that the change will encourage the right spirit of comradeship throughout the armed forces. According to the French press, airmen and sailors have not yet got beyond the stage of gawping their teeth.



Tage Erlander: popular prime minister

Architect of Sweden's welfare state dies

Stockholm: Former Swedish prime minister, Mr. Tage Erlander, who presided over the development of one of the world's most advanced welfare states, died in hospital here yesterday, aged 84.

Mr. Erlander, prime minister from 1946 to 1969, had been in hospital almost two weeks with heart trouble and pneumonia.

His Social Democratic governments enjoyed widespread cross-party support and his casual manner helped make him a popular figure. Mr. Erlander's personal appeal was enhanced by Sweden's rapid post-war economic growth and by the introduction of a host of social and educational reforms.

He won a resounding electoral victory in 1968, when the Social Democrats gained support from more than 50 per cent of the voters. He retired the following year to make way for Mr. Olof Palme, his chosen successor.

Often photographed in pyjamas on the porch of his home, Mr. Erlander was equally relaxed with visiting dignitaries, taking the Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev, and the US senator, Mr. Hubert Humphrey, on rowing trips at his country residence.

He joined the Social Democratic Party during the 1920s as a student at Lund University, where he worked as editor of a major encyclopedia from 1932 to 1935. His rise through party ranks was swift.

Elected to Lund City Council in 1930, he became an MP in 1932, under-secretary for social affairs in 1938 and minister without portfolio in the Cabinet six years later.

In 1946, aged 45 and with no senior ministerial experience, he was the surprise choice to succeed Mr. Per-Albin Hansson as prime minister and party chairman.

Mr. Erlander's appeal was strengthened by Sweden's rapid post-war growth and social and educational reforms. But critics said the reform produced an unwieldy welfare system with little room for personal initiative. He defended his policies in retirement by saying that the public sector had yet to meet all the needs of the Swedish people.

NEWS IN BRIEF

American killed in Honduras

HONDURAN soldiers have shot dead an American near the border with El Salvador, US embassy officials said yesterday, adding that they could not say what he was doing in the area.

Officials said they were investigating the killing on Wednesday of the man, identified as Joseph Reed, and he was neither a US soldier nor employed by the US Government.

He was killed near the village of Cayagocca, 100 miles west of Tegucigalpa and close to the Salvadoran province of Chalatenango, a focus of leftwing guerrilla activity.

The US maintains a strong military presence in Honduras, which has a common border with Nicaragua.—Reuter.

Office shooting

A MAN shot and killed his mother with a rifle and then killed himself with the gun at the State Department yesterday near the office of Secretary of State George Shultz. Police immediately sealed off the area and department officials were told not to speak to the press. Sources said the double shooting took place in or near the office of Edward Derwinski, one of Mr. Shultz's senior aides.—Reuter.

Tour challenge

THE New Zealand Court of Appeal yesterday gave two rugby-playing lawyers leave to go ahead with a legal challenge to the country's rugby union tour of South Africa. The national side is due to start an eight-week tour of South Africa next month despite opposition by the Government and anti-apartheid organisations.—Reuter.

New right

A NEW extreme rightwing party was set up in Spain yesterday with Mr. Antonio Izquierdo, the editor of Madrid's far right daily, El Alcazar, as its acting secretary-general. Juntas Espanolas (Spanish Juntas) is the first ultra-right group to appear in Spain since the 1982 elections when the Fuerza Nueva party won only a handful of votes.—Reuter.

Picture damaged

A REMBRANDT painting, hanging in the Hermitage museum in Leningrad, has been severely damaged in an attack by a "madman". The museum's Mr. Boris Plotovskiy, said yesterday that an "insane man" threw unspecified liquid at the picture, one of the star items of the Hermitage's outstanding collection of 17th century Dutch works, damaging the surface layer of paint.—AP.

Victim freed

A KIDNAPPED top official of Lebanon's Al-Jadeid Airlines returned home yesterday after four months in the hands of gunmen. Mr. Sami Rahabi, MEA's senior vice-president for international and government affairs who was seized on February 5, said yesterday that he had been rescued by his captors during a clash with his captors.—Reuter.

Suspects held

POLICE in Managua have arrested several suspects in the killing last week of two British geologists. The Nicaraguan Interior Ministry said yesterday that the robbery appeared to be the robbery in the killing of Mr. Michael Wilson and his wife Carol, who were stabbed to death in their home on June 14.—Reuter.

Court brawl

BUILDING workers traded punches with police outside a court yesterday after a militant union leader, Norm Gallagher, was gaoled for taking bribes from building companies. Police said four men were arrested and one policeman was injured in fighting outside the court.—Reuter.

£2m for wall

AN APPEAL for funds to rebuild part of China's Great Wall which have crumbled or been vandalised, for bricks has raised £2 million. The China News Service said yesterday. It said more than half of the contributions had come from outside China.—Reuter.

Amnesty

ZIMBABWE will free nearly 3,000 prisoners from gaol under a clemency order, marking the fifth anniversary of independence, which was signed by President Canaan Banana yesterday.—Reuter.

Job for the girl

A JOB is being offered as the prize in a beauty contest to be held on Monday in Seville, Spain which has west most rate at 20 per cent of the work force.—Reuter.

Reluctance to release Shi'ites an obstacle to negotiations 'No appeal' to Red Cross on freeing of hostages

From Iain Guest
in Geneva

The US has discreetly withdrawn its request to the International Committee of the Red Cross to approach Israel in an effort to resolve the hijacking crisis, according to diplomats here.

The report follows a meeting on Thursday between President Reagan and Mr Alexander Haig, the president of the ICRC, in Washington.

Within hours of the hijacking it was being suggested in Washington that the Red Cross might approach Israel about the possibility of meeting the hijackers' demand for freeing some 700 Shi'ites who were detained by Israel during the invasion of Lebanon.

Former President Carter broke a self-imposed silence yesterday, and urged Americans to support the Red Cross. "I know from personal experience how difficult it is to deal with the kidnapping and prolonged holding of innocent Americans," he said.

If this proposal has indeed been dropped, Red Cross officials are likely to feel heartily relieved. They are known to have felt that it was diverting them from the more urgent task of visiting the hijacked American hostages in Beirut.

In addition, it is accepted here that the Red Cross suffered a public relations disaster by the seemingly harsh way it rebuffed the American request last Thursday. This was viewed as excessively legalistic for an organisation that prides itself on its flexibility in difficult situations.

Diplomats are stressing here that while the Red Cross would willingly arrange an exchange of prisoners, either in the Middle East or in Switzerland, it will only negotiate under set conditions, and when there is a reasonable chance of success.

One condition is that force must not be used. This stems from an incident at Tel Aviv on May 8, 1972, when the Israelis stormed a hijacked Sabena jet while Red Cross officials were trying to talk the hijackers into surrender.

The main political obstacle to any successful negotiation is seen as Israel's reluctance to release the 700 Shi'ites. On April 3, the Red Cross protested when Israel moved over 1,000 detainees from the Ansar camp, in southern Lebanon, to Israel, complaining that this was a violation of the fourth Geneva Convention.

Red Cross officials have also pointed out that this convention states that all civilians detained must be released once an occupation has finished.

The last Israeli troops in uniform withdrew from Lebanon on June 10.

It is assumed here that Israel is keeping the Shi'ites as a guarantee against attacks on Israeli settlements — a policy that ignores the multiple causes of insecurity in Lebanon and almost certainly provoked the wrath of the Shi'ite hijackers.

Further complicating any negotiation is the fact that the hijackers appear to be demanding the release, not just of the 700 Shi'ites in Israel, but also the detainees held by the Israeli-backed Christian militia of Major Lahad, headquartered at Kfar Kana, in southern Lebanon.

There have been persistent reports of these detainees being mistreated, but Israel has refused to intervene with Major Lahad to permit Red Cross visits.

Diplomats here quote Red Cross officials as being "heartened" by Thursday's press conference in Beirut, at which one hostage spoke of having counted 36 other hostages.

When Red Cross officials visited the hijacked plane in Al-Bayda, they found 39 passengers. This suggests that the eight passengers with Jewish names who were reportedly taken off the plane soon after the hijacking are safe, well and accessible.

Israel keeps options open

From David Landau
in Jerusalem

AS THE hijack saga entered its second week yesterday, Israel said it had still not been asked by the US to free its Shi'ite prisoners, nor had it been approached by the International Red Cross or by Switzerland.

Israeli officials said no "deal" seemed to be in the offing and no negotiations were under way.

Well-placed sources maintained that the US Administration, "up till now, at any rate," specifically desired that Israel should not free all the Shi'ites.

But speculation persists here that a release of at least some of the 700 or more Shi'ites is likely, perhaps as soon as next week. It would be explained as part of the pre-announced programme of releasing the Shi'ites, who are all residents of Lebanon, now that Israel's occupation of South Lebanon is at an end.

A partial Israeli release of the Shi'ites would be followed by the release of the hostages in Beirut, which in turn would be followed by the release of the rest of the Shi'ite prisoners held in Lebanon.

The Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, was deliberately vague when asked yesterday if the release of the Shi'ites could go ahead. He said that President Reagan had "quite rightly" pointed out in his press conference on Wednesday that the hijackers' having linked the two issues "poses a problem... we don't want to create a situation that looks like a total surrender to terrorists," Mr Peres said in a radio interview. But he did not rule out the possibility of "unconnected" releases.

Israeli officials have repeatedly noted this week that the release of the Lebanese Shi'ite detainees was already under way and would probably have been completed by now had it not been for the hijack.

Mr Peres disclosed that "according to our information" the hijack "negotiations" had been going on for several weeks. His hint was that Israel's release last month of 1,150 Palestinian terrorists could not therefore have caused or encouraged the hijack, as Dr Henry Kissinger says.

The Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, has discounted reports of Red Cross or Swiss mediation efforts. Officials there said the Red Cross representative in Tel Aviv had informed the ministry during the week that he had been instructed to mediate. They noted that Switzerland's proposal to mediate had been directed at Mr Nabil Berri, the Lebanese Shi'ite leader.

Terrorists 'cowards'

NEW YORK: The UN Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, said yesterday that the Beirut hostages problem should be dealt with separately from that of the 700 Shi'ite, and other prisoners held in Israel.

He told a press conference the two questions should be dealt with separately because they were different.

Strongly condemning all terrorism, he said: "As a human being, I have a feeling of shame. I think it is not only a crime, it is cowardice what the terrorists are doing all over the world."

Addressing himself to terrorists, he said: "I would like you to make an appeal, not only as Secretary-General, but as a simple citizen of the world, and tell all of them, please, realise that you are innocent people."

"The innocent people are leaving with a feeling that you are cowards, that you do not dare attack those who are, in your feelings, the cowards, and you are attacking innocent people," he said.



FIGHTING SWAP: Soldiers try to win the hearts and minds of the local population and win the guerrilla war.

Pretoria confident of new plan for Namibia

From Barry Streek
in Windhoek

ANC elements of South Africa's revamped strategies in Namibia emerged this week in the capital, Windhoek, where President P. W. Botha handed over some power to a black-dominated but unelected government.

At a press briefing, a white army intelligence officer, Colonel Johan Vorster, revealed much about the costly 20-year-old border war and attempts to win the people of Namibia.

At the same time, the newly-installed, multi-party conference government, with Cabinet where only two of the eight ministers are white, will try to establish an alternative to the South Western African People's Organisation (SWAPO), which the United Nations recognises as the sole representative of Namibia.

The problem with this strategy, as with previous South African-inspired initiatives in Namibia, is delivery and cost.

But it is not only a military problem. As Col Vorster put it: "By good government, we mean the revolutionary government by means of good government and by socio-economic means you uplift the quality of life of everyone."

"Good Government," however, is a big problem in Namibia, as is economic upliftment.

A judicial commission of inquiry, which has yet to complete its work, has not a view accepted by many observers. Professor Gerhard Totsmeier, a University of Cape Town political scientist, for instance, believes that neither side can win the war.

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if you look at agriculture, fishing and mining," Dr Jones said.

For the sixth consecutive year, the mining industry, which contributes 30 per cent of Namibia's GDP, last year showed a decline in its real value added, and fishing "had an absolutely disastrous year with a drop of 32 per cent."

Dr Jones estimated that the unemployment rate was about 20 per cent — about 10,000 people. He admitted that it was impossible to tell what the real unemployment rate was, although he disputed an estimate of 37 per cent.

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Whatever military intelligence officers may believe about the role of economic upliftment in neutralising SWAPO, there has been no improvement in the quality of life in Namibia: with the population growth rate estimated by Dr Jones to be 3 per cent, and no growth in real terms in the economy for ten years, the average Namibian has become poorer.

As in South Africa, there are also racial disparities in Government spending: in 1980, R1,148 (£455) was spent on every white child in school, R578 (£229) on every Coloured (mixed race) child and R103 (£40) on every black pupil in Ovambo where 50 per cent of the people of Namibia live.

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At a press conference, SWAPO said the new government was not prepared to allow internationally-supervised elections because it knew it did not have popular support.

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Ethiopians leave camps to face hunger at home

By Jonathan Steele

Tens of thousands of Ethiopians have returned from refugee camps in the Sudan but now find themselves dependent on private traders for food. Foreign-donated grain has not reached the war-torn areas of Tigré, which is held by the rebel movement, the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

The TPLF has a socialist programme, but in one of the many ironies of Ethiopia's complex political scene, has been unwilling to disrupt traditional trading patterns in the countryside. Western aid agencies have been providing cash to buy grain from merchants in Tigré to feed the starving. The price is uncontrolled and has been rising. Some of the available grain has probably been hoarded, and some may have been brought in from government areas.

The Relief Society of Tigré (REST), the Tigrayan civilian agency, has tried to limit the numbers leaving the overcrowded camps in the Sudan. It only wanted heads of families to come home to prepare the ground and plant for the next harvest. It warned families that in spite of poor conditions in the camps, they would be better there.

But many families were returning on a "death march" — this term describes the reasoning of the people who have chosen to go home, and news that relatively good rains had fallen in Tigré also gave some reassurance of conditions. Some 50,000 Tigrayans have gone home, roughly half of them says.

women and children. This is about a fifth of the number who originally made the long march to the Sudan.

Before leaving the Sudan, they are supposed to register with REST, which carries some rations into Tigré to feed them at a series of stopping-points on the way. Although an Ethiopian government offensive in western Tigré ended last month, the columns still travel mainly at night for fear of air attack.

With help from foreign donors, REST officials say they are confident there will be enough seed for the families to plant even though the price for this has also risen. Some 10,000 oxen — again at double the price which prevailed earlier in the year — have been bought, the REST will share them out for ploughing.

But without extra funds, REST will be unable to feed more than a quarter of the returnees. It has launched a new emergency appeal.

Other Tigrayans are moving in the opposite direction, either to the Sudan or to the government feeding centre at Makiela. These are assumed to be the best places to go. Stocks of grain there are earlier migrants but these have now been exhausted.

Threat of more SA raids

Johannesburg: South Africa yesterday implied a threat of retaliation against Botswana and Angola unless they expelled guerrillas trying to end white minority rule, as the United Nations considered Pretoria for cross-border raids.

South African commanders last week raided what Pretoria said were African National Congress (ANC) bases in the Botswana capital of Gaborone, killing at least 12 people and recruiting what security police called an intelligence treasure trove.

South Africa's state-controlled radio said yesterday that Pretoria's troops had in the past mounted similar raids against ANC targets in Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho.

Mozambique and Swaziland subsequently signed non-aggression accords and the ANC threat in Lesotho had been removed for the present, a daily commentary reflecting government policy said.

Botswana and Angola, however, are evidently not ready yet to commit themselves to eliminating the fundamental destabilising factor in their relations with South Africa — the continued presence of ANC terrorists in their territories," it said.

The commentary continued: "Naturally, neutralising the ANC... might also be done through negotiations between that body and the South African Government. But until the ANC abandons violence as an instrument for achieving its political aims that door will remain closed."

Two young men were killed in violent outbreaks in 11 black communities near Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth, police reported.

Police shot and killed an 18-year-old youth in KwaZulu, near Johannesburg, after he tried to burn a policeman's house with a petrol bomb and the burnt body of a 22-year-old man was found in KwaZulu, near Port Elizabeth.

Police said a bomb damaged a wall around an electrical power station in Durban yesterday. The station was not damaged and no one was injured.

Guards opened fire on 150 people throwing petrol bombs at a house in KwaZulu earlier this week, but no one was injured. In Zwile, also near Port Elizabeth, a woman, a man, and a boy were seriously burnt by a petrol bomb thrown at their house. — Reuter/AP.

Uganda rebels kill 13

Kampala: Thirteen people, including five civilians, are reported to have been killed in apparent rebel attacks on two areas near the Ugandan capital.

They were the latest incidents in an upsurge of violence during recent weeks. President Milton Obote's Government, which has itself denied charges of atrocities by troops, has been fighting rebels outside Kampala since February, 1981.

Gunmen on Thursday attacked a trading centre, Kiteera, a village about 10 miles north of here, killing seven soldiers — the usually reliable Munnio newspaper reported.

It quoted witnesses as saying the attackers fled with the men's uniforms and rifles. Kiteera is near the troubled Luwero triangle, where rebels have camps.

In the second attack, a member of a special police unit and three civilians were forced at gunpoint from a bar in Kiteera, 11 miles south of Kampala, and hacked or shot to death. Two security men were also seriously wounded and their weapons and uniforms stolen, indicating that the attackers were rebels.

The attackers, a large gang of men, some as young as 15, later broke into a nearby home and battered a couple to death. Troop reinforcements were sent to the area yesterday. — AP.

Offensive is crushed

Kinshasa: Rebels hostile to the Zairean leader, Mr Mobutu Sese Seko, suffered heavy losses when they clashed with troops in Shaba province, the Government said yesterday.

The reported attack on the town of Moba was the second in eight months and the third invasion attempt in seven years on Shaba, which accounts for 80 per cent of Zaire's mineral wealth.

An Information Ministry communiqué said that 12 boats carrying what it described as outlaws were sunk after five hours of fighting in Moba, 500 miles east of here. Two Government soldiers died. — Reuter.

Assad still Summit in Moscow

Moscow: A delegation that accompanied President Assad, of Syria, to Moscow this week left for home yesterday. President Assad had been in Moscow for a short visit, the official news agency Tass said.

There was no explanation of why President Assad remained in the Soviet Union.

Tass said that the Syrian Vice-President, Abdel Halim Khaddam, the Defence Minister, Mr Mustafa Tlass, the Foreign Minister, Farouk al-Sharaya, and other officials were seen off at Moscow airport by the Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, and the Defence Minister, Marshal Sergei Sokolov.

Syria is Moscow's key Middle East ally. President Assad held talks during his stay with the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, at which both men repeated past calls for an international conference to settle the "explosive" situation in the Middle East. — AP.

Summit moves

Rabat: Six Moroccan emissaries left here yesterday to deliver invitations to Arab heads of state from King Hassan to attend an extraordinary Arab summit in Morocco on the Palestinian issue.

Morocco wanted all 21 members of the Arab League to attend, the ambassador to Tunisia, Mr Mohamed Tazi, said. The issuing of formal invitations is seen as a sign that Morocco is ready to make a move that could lead to a summit next month, has a chance of being approved.

The idea of a special summit was mooted two weeks ago at an Arab League meeting on the fighting at Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

The proposal will be discussed at the next Arab League ministerial council meeting. This is scheduled to take place in Tunis on Monday, but Morocco wants it postponed until Thursday to give more time for consultations.

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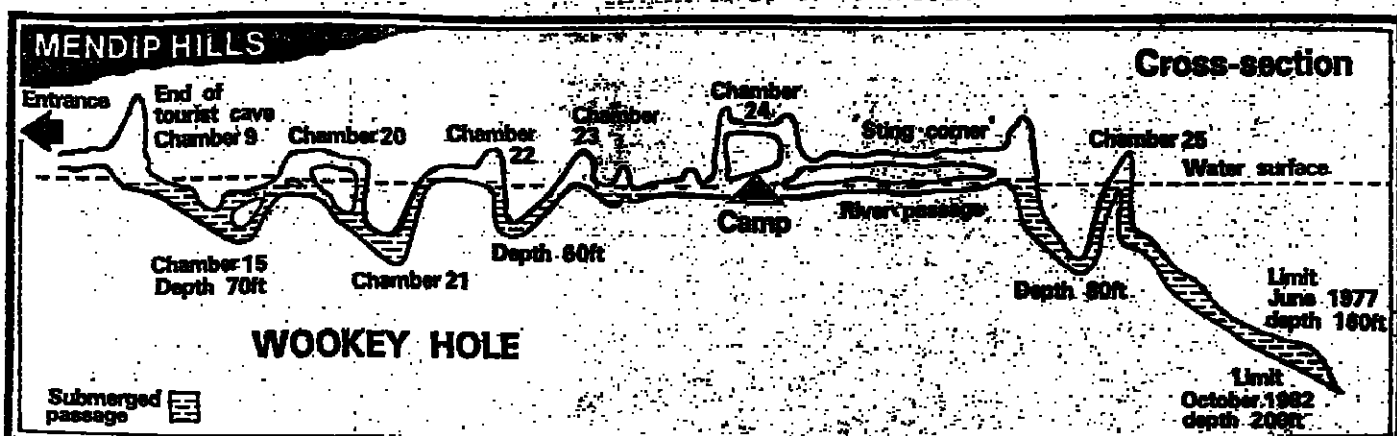
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Pictures by Carl Ryan of Rob Parker having an afternoon off on the Avon Gorge, and kitted up for the big dive

The diver with three tickets to staying alive

Next week Rob Parker will be diving far deeper than anyone has ever attempted in a British cave, reports David Rose



AT about lunchtime on Tuesday a 22-year-old carpenter from Bristol called Rob Parker will dive beneath the surface of a black pool in an underground chamber in the far reaches of Wookey Hole cave in Somerset. Alone, without the slightest prospect of rescue if anything goes wrong, he will be going where no man has gone before.

Parker's dive, if successful, will pass a barrier that many cave divers thought impossible. He will be going deeper underwater than anyone has ever been in a British cave, facing intense pressure, cold, and the limits of existing technology. His potential reward is the discovery of further caverns and the source of the river Axe, the blue stream emerging into the daylight at Wookey's entrance to flow on through the nearby city of Wells.

Between the entrance — where visitors come for guided tours of the easily accessible parts of the cave — and chamber 25, where Parker will begin his dive, cavers have already mapped miles of subterranean passage: large halls, narrow fissures, and thrilling stretches of white water where the Axe rumbles over cascades and rapids.

Separating these open sections are many long, dangerous sumps, flooded tunnels explored little by little, since the 1930s, as divers have grown more daring with

advancing technology. Behind the black pool of chamber 25 is another such sump, the key to Wookey's further secrets.

It was discovered in 1977. At first passing the sump in the 24th chamber Martin Farr, one of the country's most experienced cave divers and the man who was later to train Rob Parker, advanced into a magnificent river passage — Sing Corner. At its end, the Axe emerged from sump 25. It was not a long dive: 300 feet or so, although like some of the earlier sumps it reached considerable depth at its lowest point before turning up once more towards air space.

On the other side was the 25th chamber. There was no dry land, only a narrow rib of rock barely protruding from the surface. Sump 26 began immediately. The walls were dark, foreboding, absorbing the light from the divers' lamps mounted on their helmets. The new sump, it soon became clear, was altogether a more serious proposition than anything yet encountered in Wookey Hole.

The deeper a diver goes, the more difficult and more dangerous his progress becomes. As pressure increases, nitrogen starts dissolving in the blood, creating the hazard of nitrogen narcosis, a drunken, hallucinatory state, in which divers have, sometimes, believing themselves to be above water, removed their

equipment, and drowned. More deadly, there is the hazard of "the bends" — the formation of nitrogen bubbles on the return to the surface or to lower depths. It can induce fatal agonising seizures.

Martin Farr's 1977 attempt on sump 26 was already the deepest penetration by a British diver. He got down to 160 feet, the flooded tunnel continued inexorably down.

Five years later he tried again. This time, he had special decompression tables, calculations which told him how to avoid the bends by spending given times at given depths waiting on his way back up. The tables and his compressed air aqua lung imposed a maximum depth of 200 feet on his dive.

He reached it only minutes after leaving chamber 25. The river Axe flowed past him, but still the only way on was down. Worse, the passage beyond appeared to narrow to a fierce constriction — a slot no more than a foot wide, but enough in the shallowest of sumps, let alone 200 feet underwater. It is through this slot that Rob Parker, defying many sceptics, intends to go.

The logistics of his expedition are alarming. Most of his equipment has been spread out in his Clifton Hill living room: diving cylinders, thermal clothing, food and sleeping bags. Parker and his four-man support team are setting

up camp for five days in Wookey 24, and they packed much of the gear into waterproof canisters in order to ferry it into the campsite in a series of preliminary dives. Tanned and muscular — he has been spending spare sunny afternoons leading extreme rock climbs in the Avon Gorge — Parker surveyed the ordered chaos apparently relaxed, a twinkle in his eye. "Confident? Well, yes, I am confident... well, confident to a degree. Obviously there is a danger factor in this one..."

Wookey has already claimed two lives in earlier phases of its exploration, but Parker has faith in his equipment. Some of the diving cylinders — 48 will be needed in all — are lightweight fibre glass models developed originally by the American space programme. To combat the cold — the water, he said, will be 35 degrees Fahrenheit, particularly bitter during the long decompression stops — he will wear thermal underwear, "insulate" (an artificial fibre twice as warm as down, volume for volume), and a unique, sealed rubber dry suit made for the dive by Brian Rickell, a specialist marine designer.

Finally, there is his air supply. helium-trimix, pioneered by deep oil-rig divers, used together with decompression tables computed by Bovislands, a diving

firm in Plymouth, on the basis of Parker's own physiology. No existing published tables were any use: they all make the dive completely impossible.

"Essentially," Parker said, "I've got three tickets home I can't afford to lose. There's the line I lay through the sump to follow out when the air gets stirred up and the visibility falls, perhaps to zero."

"There's the need not to get the slightest nick in the dry suit — if water got in, I wouldn't be able to decompress without dying of hypothermia, and even though we'll be taking a load of drugs down, if I came straight up I'd almost certainly get the bends."

"And of course there's the air supply — if I blew out a high-pressure hose, I'd obviously be finished." Despite his tender years, Parker has dived in many committing locations abroad, including the deep "blue holes" off the coast of the Bahamas and, in April, the even deeper sinkholes of Florida. With Bill Stone, an American and member of the Wookey support team, he took part last year in an expedition to the Pena Colorado cave in Oaxaca, Mexico.

When quietly, matter-of-factly Parker gave a talk about this expedition to the hardened audience of the British Cave Research Association in September, most of

those present were visibly horrified and amazed: in remote, hostile countryside, the exploration involved ten day underground camps, the passing of six previously unknown sumps punctuated by the climbing of high, technically difficult, subterranean rock faces, and finally a 200 foot abseil straight into a final sump dived to a further depth of 180 feet... ten miles from the entrance.

Yet Wookey is entirely in the same league.

The team will enter the cave on Monday morning, reaching camp for dinner and the night. On the following morning, Parker will set off through sump 25 with two of the others. With no dry ground there, they plan to wait in hammocks fixed to the cave walls while he makes his first exploratory dive.

They may be there a long time. If, as he hopes, Parker finds the upward continuation of sump 26 beyond the slot, he will try to surface. "I think we may be near the bottom now. A lot of the other Wookey sumps have a squeeze at the bottom." If necessary, he is ready to go down another 100 feet.

If he does surface, he will first have to treat water decompressing for 90 minutes. He will not, on this first occasion, explore beyond the end of the sump to do so would risk that fatal nick in the dry suit on the sharp conglomerate for which

MARTIN GREEN

Senor, can you spare a peseta?

A MAN approached me on the forecourt of Euston Station and aggressively demanded 75p for a pint of beer. It was a long way from the days of "can you spare a penny for a cup of tea," or "sixpence for some lodgings," both chronologically and in terms of inflation. At least the mendicant was honest, and didn't pretend he wanted the money for the cup that cheers, but inebriateeth not.

Being probably has a longer history than raising money for charity, but both have the same motive of parting someone from their money, either to help someone less fortunate than they or for a good cause, such as medical research or the restoration of a church roof. Which brings me to a letter I chanced across in the porch of Paul Church, in the village above Mousehole in Cornwall.

It is from the Spanish ambassador and addressed to a Mr Hutchings, the hon treasurer of St Pol de Leon parochial church council. As an example of the language at its finest, and of Spanish courtesy at its most flowery, it should have wider circulation than the parish of St Paul. Evidently Mr Hutchings, casting round for yet more esoteric sources of raising money than the traditional sale-of-work or church bazaar, had what he thought was a bright idea. His letter to the Spanish ambassador is not on display, though his approach can be gleaned from the reply.

Dear Sir, Have been absent from the United Kingdom for a few days and therefore I reply to your courteous letter of March 30 with some delay.

I must confess that the matter you raise is unusual, and in no way similar to the content to the type of letter normally received at the Embassy. For that reason alone it is of particular and exceptional interest.

As you rightly say, in our past history there have been what you aptly describe as an "association", which is a polite way of referring to a period during which one imperialism was attacking another, which took its place in history. To the numerous aggressive incursions which took place in Medieval times, principally on the coasts of the north-east of Spain, there were some reprisals, such as the time when the Castilian Navy undertook precisely in Cornwall in the Fourteenth Century.

The English incursions against Metropolitan Spain and Spanish Colonies gave rise to the "historical" reference to which you intelligently refer.

May these lines serve as an apology for a minor episode lasting many years, and as an expression of regret that the Church at Mousehole should have been set on fire by Spanish soldiers in 1586. You may be sure that there are a vast number of incidents of a like nature in which the Republic of Spain suffered, in respect of which I would not mind receiving similar expressions of regret.

In the light of the foregoing consideration, I have pleasure in enclosing a cheque for £50 by way of a contribution, which is purely symbolic, towards the present cost of repairs to the roof of the Church.

Yours faithfully, Marques de Perinat, Spanish Ambassador.

The £50 Mr Hutchings received was, if you like, the touch of the foil across the cheek that says, there, the only reason I don't cut you in the quick is because I have demonstrated my superior skill. It is very much d'haut en bas, as the French say, a gift that impoverishes the recipient.

Furthermore, and the Spanish ambassador cannot have been unaware of this, the episode in question was not one that should be brought to the annals of the county, nor does it bring glory to the reputation of the Cornish. It is something of a mangy dog in fact, which it was better to let lie.

At dawn on July 23, 1586, four Spanish galleys emerged from the fog at Mousehole and landed 200 men with pikes and shot. They burnt all the houses as they passed and at length set fire to Paul Church. Meeting no resistance they passed on through Newlyn, where they did the same, and finally reached Penzance, where the only opposition came from Sir Francis Godolphin, who bravely waved his sword at them until he realised that he had no one behind him in support. His men had stolen away. When the right wind came, the Spaniards took off as they had come, and slipped away in their galleys.

"Thus have you," says the Cornish historian Richard Carew, in his account of the incident, "a summary of the Spaniards' glorious enterprise and the Cornishmen's infamous cowardice."

It would be interesting to know whether the Spanish ambassador ever retrieved from Mr Hutchings the similar expressions of regret, for the vast number of like incidents which Spain suffered at the hands of the English. And he might expect this, because his national pride suffered its greatest ever humiliation only seven years previously, with the destruction of the Spanish Armada at the hands of the English.

The environment around Faslane can scarcely be described as the most desirable in the land. Patrick Richardson describes the local reactions.

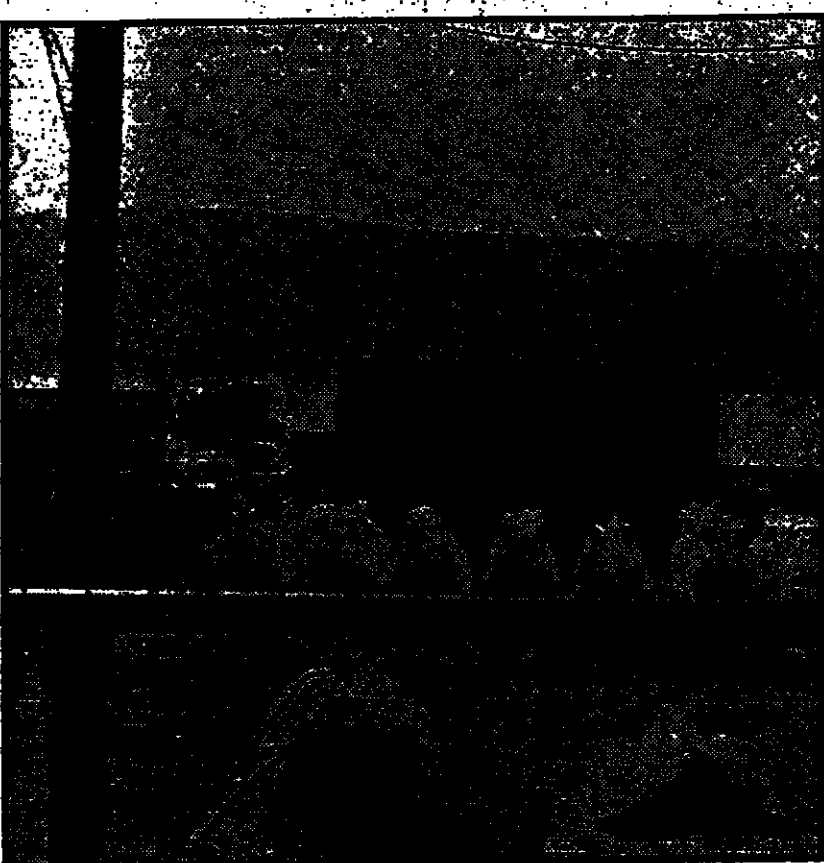
Between the asbestos and the deep blue nuclear sub base

QUATERMASS was never as colourful as this. Gangs of workmen wearing black protective face masks, red boiler suits, and orange hardhats stand clear as forklifts grab twenty ton sealed sacks of contaminated earth, scuttle across the 60 acre site and deposit them safely, like giant yellow insects, in outside larva white eggs, in the growing line alongside the loch. Click, click, click, like chirping cicadas, go the revolving sprinklers as fine webs of water shoot out to settle the deadly dust.

The largest project in Scotland to remove dangerous industrial waste — 80,000 tons of asbestos — is under way at the Royal Navy base at Faslane. The intention is to expand the base to accommodate Trident nuclear submarines.

Opinions differ as to which is the greater menace. The local peace camp concentrates on the asbestos, a carcinogenic substance which can cause fatal lung diseases. The MoD intends to transfer 16,000 tons of the waste to Glenelg by the A90 and the M88, right through the middle and Glasgow, and another 64,000 tons by ship, it crosses the water to Greenock by the Lennox, the local paper, the News, the Herald, broke the news, the alarm was raised.

The district council of Dumbarton and Monklands, on the other hand, is concerned about the asbestos, which is to be dumped in a disused clay mine. Asbestos is a carcinogenic substance which can cause fatal lung diseases. The MoD intends to transfer 16,000 tons of the waste to Glenelg by the A90 and the M88, right through the middle and Glasgow, and another 64,000 tons by ship, it crosses the water to Greenock by the Lennox, the local paper, the News, the Herald, broke the news, the alarm was raised.



Bags of asbestos



Faslane peace camp

tal health of Dumbarton; at a public demonstration, a simple spoon was able to pierce one of the storage sacks. The Labour leader of the council, Jim Brooks, has called for an inquiry, saying the council will revoke the licence of the tip whether Scottish Secretary of State George Younger likes it or not. Councillor Robertson wants the asbestos left at Faslane and covered with concrete. Last month 60 women were removed by police from a sit-down in the road in front of the tip.

Meanwhile, back at the peace camp, the inhabitants sit in the disused clay mine, surrounded by the asbestos waste, and the council is planning to remove it.

For a while, they are oblivious to the controversy raging in the outside world as they discuss a new one of their own — how to handle the burning of the tip. Apart from the continual clogging from the generators but hard-up campers, should they interfere in the wife battering that affronts them all? As a slogan on one of the caravans says, "commitment to non-violence begins in the recognition of violence done to women by men." And there's also the seemingly countless children, who, after embracing the camp by asking it to call the police to stop the parental mayhem, perform a little act of sabotage the moment its back is turned. Long used to threatening the

values and property of others, the wryly amused campers suddenly find they've got their own to protect. But soon it's back to business. William, trained as an accountant, is teased as he dons his grey suit, white shirt, collar and tie, and gleaming black shoes. He's attending a public meeting of the residents of Rosneath peninsula, where a Royal Navy speaker will talk about "safety aspects of nuclear weapons".

A black kettle for some tea simmers on the fire in the upturned water tank that serves as a grate. Perhaps it'll be Earl Grey, life here, especially in the winter, is still hard, but at peace camps, Mr. Mickelthwait would probably give it five stars, if not a recipe. In among the 12

caravans, and the former pie-and-sausages-shop van, and the comfortable old bus, settled gratefully in the well-kept weeds, there's an office with a typewriter and duplicator, a bathroom where two hand basins have running water and the toilet flushes, a bicycle repair workshop, and the newly established women-only caravan, indicated by the "war is menstruation" slogan daubed in red paint on the side.

Three years ago the local council gave them planning permission, plus the site for £1 a month, and then paid back their £29 site licence fee. Soon it's time for a group of supporters to deliver William to the meeting, the tiny road wriggles along the shoreline of the Rosneath peninsula.

Across the sail-studded inlet — Gareloch is one vast recreational yachting marina — five nuclear submarines can be seen, their half-submerged, cigar-shaped hulls nestling like a gaggle of black geese against the protective mother dry dock. A few miles further is the village where the meeting is due to be held. But the words "postponed till further notice" have been scrawled over the crinkled noticeboard.

William tries to verify this by calling a number from the red phone box near the village hall. It doesn't work. "Special Branch," he says laconically. There's nothing for it but to return to camp. The group decide to take the alternative scenic short-cut, high across the peninsula.

A small van inches past on a tight curve in the narrow road. This is where the convoy carrying nuclear warheads travels on its way to the Royal Navy Armaments Depot at Coulport: four ten-ton Leyland armoured trucks, one green command vehicle, one green fire engine, several minibuses full of Royal Marines, and a swarm of motor-cycle outriders returning from the Royal Ordnance Factory, Burghfield, some 400 miles along some of the busiest motorways (the M8 and the M74) and through the most densely populated urban areas in Britain outside London.

Then round yet another bend and suddenly the loch shore is littered with the sprawling concrete complex of Coulport itself, its black, Goliath-like watchtowers, searchlights and barbed wire covering at the foot of vast craggy mountains silhouetted against the blue sky.

Just before the base, a small side-road darts up a precipitously steep hill. Alongside runs the straggling fence, mistakenly cut one night by the jubilant peace campers — only to find themselves not in the comfortably familiar hands of the MoD Police (affectionately known as the Mod Ploot) but an irate local sheep farmer.

At last the summit is reached, and the view is breathtaking. To the south and east stretch the conurbations of Central Scotland — getting on for two million people living within range of a one megaton bomb — while to the north and west huge mountains ring the horizon. And just round the corner is America's Trident base at Holy Loch. On a black winter's night, with thunder rolling through the doom grey clouds, and lightning illuminating the mist shrouded peaks, it would make a stupendous backdrop for an open air performance of Gotterdammerung in which the final battle between the forces of good and evil takes place. But if Ronald Reagan were to press the button, though, that would be Wagner any day.

WEEK-END ARTS

The soap called Cher

CHER isn't supposed to be telling the world about Mask but when you see her act in it you understand why she wants to talk.

The film's director, Peter Bogdanovich, asked her to stay silent, because he's suing the studio, Universal, over the cuts and the use of Bob Seger songs on the soundtrack rather than Bruce Springsteen.

"Peter shot a three-hour movie, and the studio is releasing it as two," explained Cher. "Some of my best work isn't on the screen. But do you think the movie because you didn't get 100 per cent? Do you say you're taking your marbles and going home? Not me."

In Mask, the straight talking Cher shows her acting chops playing a free-wheeling, big-city, chick-drug addict who is nevertheless a wise and loving mother. Her son, played by Eric Stoltz, is grotesquely disfigured by a rare disease that made the bones in his face swell to twice their normal size.

Giving love and being tough at the same time

In a sense, the film is an American Elephant Man. The boy's inner normality becomes apparent to anyone who gives him a second glance. The mother's child-rearing technique is also Cher's: "You're walking on two pieces of ice, giving a lot of love and being tough at the same time. Make your kids feel special but never be weak with them." In one Mask scene, Cher sends the boy off to a new school, saying, "Remember, you're not like everyone else — you're more beautiful inside."

Mask, which opens in London next week, is based on fact. "The character in Silkwood is a composite. The character in Mask is a real person. The only thing

Cher the singer and star of many a gossip column is now Cher the feted actress. She told Bart Mills about the transformation

In the movie that's not factual is that the real person was a drug dealer.

"I didn't find that out until I was halfway through making the movie. I met her, and she was angry that she was being portrayed as someone who would buy drugs instead of selling them. I never bought in my life," she told me.

"She's 10 years older than me. I told her she looked pretty good, considering she said she read up in medical books about the effects of the drugs she was taking, and she took whatever vitamin was being depleted by which drug. Since the period covered by the movie, she's cut way back, she says."

Cher seems to be enough of an old-boots type not to feel out of place discussing vitamins with a druggie of standing in the kitchen of her Beverly Hills mansion comparing blenders. Maybe there's some take-it-as-it-comes aspect of Cher that causes her to get cast in realistic movies about proletarians and feel at home in them. Despite her good-time television image, her audience really respond more to the hard times she's had off-camera.

"Soap opera would be a pretty good description of my life," she says. "You could take jumps on this block, or lay back, and make their lives into a soap opera. What's life for? There's nothing written on stones or, the Ten Commandments. Everyone tries to do right, and they mess up. But so what? I mean, really, so what?"

The Cher soap opera includes the partnership with Sonny Bono that produced nine hit records in the Six-

ties and one of the top-rated American television shows of the Seventies. Somewhere around episode 10 of the soap opera, Cher married Gregg Allman. Divorce papers were soon filed and forgotten, filed and forgotten, until the separation finally stuck after three unsettled years. Relationships with Kiss villain Gene Simmons and record mogul David Geffen followed.

Cher, whose mother was married eight times, has two children from her two marriages, Chastity, 16, and Elijah, 8. Chas is a student at New York's High School of Performing Arts and Elijah lives with Mum in L.A. Apt to drop in chez Cher at any time is actor Val Kilmer, though she is seen in public on the arm of Josh Donen, son of Stanley, the soap opera star far from over.

"In my position, you make mistakes and everyone is there to watch you. It's always better to try to appear like you're successful at everything. Sonny and Cher did it for a long time. I liked working with Sonny but I got it confused with being married to him, which I hated."

"If I really cared what people thought of me, I'd never have left him. I crushed a lot of people. They thought we were the hot couple of America. But for me it was either divorce or death. So I told the truth: 'I don't want to be the one to break this to you, but one of us is not happy.'"

"Same thing with Gregg. I didn't go house-to-house telling everybody. It wasn't my idea that everything was so public. You just can't get away from it. I was on a

magazine cover in 1974, when I was on the cover of every magazine, and this one said how tired everybody was of reading about me, and there I was on the cover!"

"The public and the press are people like me are like the tigers in Little Black Sambo. We just chase each other around the tree until we turn to butter. None of us can get away from it. So my attitude is, tell it all and look like the good guy."

"Besides, I could tell everybody everything they want to know, and they still wouldn't know a thing about me. So why not? I just don't care."

Once a candidate for the Elton John glitter-gown award, Cher's fine acting in such films as Jimmy Dean, Silkwood (opposite Meryl Streep) and now Mask mean that the world is suddenly taking her seriously as an actress.

Tell it all and look like the good guy

As far as Cher herself is concerned, though, her new career is nothing remarkable. "I never said, 'I'm so happy that people are taking me seriously now. I did the TV show, and I'm not ashamed of it. I did Las Vegas, and I'm not ashamed of it. Everyone else was ashamed of it, not me.'"

"Meryl Streep is 'serious.' Suzanne Somers isn't. That's the way they're seen. But I know Meryl is the first one to crack a joke and laugh her arse off, and she doesn't go around in a shroud reciting. I don't think Miss Somers does dirty tap dances when she gets home. I've been both. I used to be a ditz. Now I'm talented."

CHER: "Some of my best work isn't on the screen"

Sand in the eyes

Hugh Hebert on what was missing from The World About Us

AT the last census in North Yemen, there were 7.7 million people and 7.5 million goats, which could be why Western camera crews don't head that way too often. Though if you believe Roof Of Arabia (BBC2), it's because until very recently the Yemenis have been too busy to let outsiders in. Now that they've found oil and suspect that jaded westerners who tire of Bangkok and Bali might even take the scent of 7.5 million goats on the desert breeze, things are changing. Things are always changing in The World About

Us or the series would never have lasted 15 years.

The trouble is that they also stay the same. Yemen looks beautiful from its desert landscapes snuggling under the flank of The Empty Quarter to red ochre hill towns that have been inhabited continuously for ever and look as though they were rebuilt by a medieval Arab. It has the capital of the Queen of Sheba, it has the remains of a massive dam system that irrigated large tracts of land from well before Christ until the time of Mohammed, it has rich mansions decorated with the delicacy of lace.

But we saw it all through the eyes of two Yemenis, one television announcer, and one archaeologist who went to Garton.

They both of course spoke perfect English and — apart from the devotion to family and tradition — told us nothing about how ordinary Yemenis live, and even less about the politics of their country. The bare facts of the 1960s revolution that replaced the ancient line of Imams with a republic were there. But nothing about the balance between Russian and Saudi interests, or the significant fact that more

than a million Yemenis work abroad — mostly in Saudi Arabia — providing the country (until the oil flows) with almost its only source of foreign currency.

Now you may say this is none of the business of an up-market travelogue programme like World About Us, and that anyway to raise these issues might have prejudiced the whole delicate enterprise. And that might be some excuse if we had not had as well as the cosy cultural view, a bland commentary poured over it. It's in precisely this sort of case where if you have a commentary, it needs to question

and amplify what the camera is allowed to see rather than smother it in custard.

The new series Swack (C4) is about fashion and style, and the tragedy of fashion at the moment, as one of the many pop-up figures put it: it is that "the one thing you have got to be is tall and slim." The presenter Dawn French, of The Comic Strip, would look tall and slim beside some people, but not many, and this is the central joke of the show.

The influence of pop videos is everywhere these days, and Swack both uses and sends up their conventions,

producing a cheap and cheerful, jumble-sale version of those slick tapes. But if you can take the general slap-happiness, it has occasional good lines that make you hope it might get more incisive.

Hugh Canning has already written about the Omnibus programme of the amazing boy and singer Alex Jones. But since I have slapped Omnibus once or twice lately for sloppy standards, it's only fair perhaps to say that Angela Pope's film about Jones was beautifully shaped and convincing on a subject to which, at first, I was rather resistant.

Robin Denslow reviews the new rock releases

When Heads turn

AFTER showing what a clever live band they are in their excellent in-concert film Stop Making Sense, and releasing yet more live versions of their best-known songs on the accompanying album, it's time for Talking Heads to move on.

Little Creatures (EMI) is their first studio album in two years, and shows David Byrne and his colleagues regrouping and altering course. Gone are the massed ranks of added musicians who dressed up the Heads' edgy funk style, and gone as well is much of the edgy funk itself.

Instead, at least on the first side of the LP, they tackle their most relaxed, gentle and even pretty songs. The opening "And She Was" or the title track are pleasant, gently rhythmic pieces that show that even when relaxed, the band's playing remains tight as ever. Instead of the uneasy and paranoid of Byrne's best-known pieces like Psycho-Killer, or Life During War-time, the lyrics now seem almost as deliberately naive as the childish paintings on the album's cover.

But with Byrne, things are not always what they seem, and by the second side, with the old-style jerky Television Man or the intriguing "Road To Nowhere" with its tight, close harmonies, military drum-rattle and accordion, the sense of unease is beginning to return.

Rain Parade: Explosions In The Glass Palace (Zippo). This time round, the latest Los Angeles "new wave" seems to be taking off well, at least in Britain. If not so much back in the States. The new bands share an interest in reviving a rough and smooth, pre-hippie and use-ready production to match, and can roughly be divided into two camps — the "roots-rockers" and exponents of the latest batch of "new" psychedelia.

Zippo's new set of mini-albums promises an introduction to some of the best of the latter, from the excellent Dream Syndicate to Green On Red. Rain Parade are the most obviously "psychedelic" of them, with their gentle, laid-back, trippy songs, bursts of muted energy, and wailing effects. Three tracks from the mini-album reappear on the Island set, recorded live in Japan, which shows they are mesmerically impressive in concert. Recommended for hippies old and new.

Scritti Politti: Cupid And Psyche '85 (Virgin). The new guitar bands are very much a reaction against the mechanical clattering and clanking of synthesiser exponents like David Gamson and Fred Maher, the new American sides of the one-time boy wonder of British pop Green. Four of the tracks on his long-awaited second album have already appeared as singles, and include last year's wonderfully seductive "Wooden Heart".

The new tracks are both impressive and disappointing. Green's voice is soft and distinctive as ever but the backing "sounds" increasingly clever but ambivalent. He may be trying to make his style with the latest in black American dance music, but this is not the way to sound soulful.

Marvin Gaye: Dream Of A Lifetime (CBS). A real star, a real genius and a real innovator in black music, Marvin Gaye was a brilliantly talented bundle of contradictions: a man of great sensitivity, capable of creating music that could be thought of as in the classic "What's Going On" set, great dance music (as with early hits like "I Heard That The Grapevine") or the cool and erotic (as with the '82 Midnight Love set).

What Marvin should not be remembered for is the third (or even the first) track here. Masochistic Beauty is a rather unpleasant, sexually explicit half-spoken piece that sounds like a studio sick joke. Out-take while Savage In The Sack is a slightly better piece along the same lines. Elsewhere, though, the selection ranges from material recorded soon before his death to archive material from the light touch of Sanctified Lady, through to the finger-clicking "Ain't No Funny, a mini-concept" ballad piece, the thoughtful Life's Opera, and the poignant title track, with religious overtones, written 15 years ago.

George Thorogood And The Destroyers: Marvins (EMI America). Good solid stuff from the dependable Mr Thorogood, the no-nonsense R&B guitarist who walks a rousing line between Heavy Metal and roots-rock. There's a little "I'm walking on the opening track, a tribute to truck-drivers, but then he's off into solid mainstream territory, with a rolling blues, I Drink Alone, followed by a burst of early rock'n'roll, a burst of soul, and another chugging rocker, all given his enthusiastic treatment. No surprises, maybe, but certainly no disappointments either.

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Daniel Pines (Oscar drummer) from
recluse work, and the lesson
of this Wigmore Hall programme seemed to be that
the closer she is to opera the
happier she sounds.

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THE BUSH
Rosalind Carne

The Beloved

WHAT you read here is liable to put you off this one woman show, so should make it plain from the start that Rose English, against all odds, has an insidious appeal. Her performance may draw its inspiration from faded theatrical convention, but there's a good chance that the untitled play never have seen anything quite like it.

Using the format of the professional magician, she asks her assistant Wendy (decorously clad in slashed Elizabethan breeches) to hand her various small props about which she weaves vignettes of fantasy of which the principal theme is always herself. She may be illustrating the tribulations of touring with a couple of toy vans on string, explaining the niceties of coiling and uncoiling a microphone lead, counting out a pile of false beads or expatiating on the physical peculiarities of the Bush stage but everything is done with a cool assurance that belies mockery.

Clothes are a favourite topic, not surprising given her obsession with the mysteries of style. In fact, the ragged silk dress hangs awkwardly on her gawky figure like a cumbersome patent leather shoes look absurd.

'THE BRILLIANCE OF ITS PROGRAMMING... INDISPUTABLY OUR MOST INTERESTING AND ENTERTAINING FESTIVAL' Sunday Times

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MIRICIOIU

IN the four years since she first sang in this country the Romanian soprano, Nelly Miricioiu has made a powerful impression in the opera house with her fresh, but vibrant voice with its occasional Callas-like inflections. Now she is starting to expand her career here in recital work, and the lesson of this Wigmore Hall programme seemed to be that the closer she is to opera the happier she sounds.

As encore came Il sogno di Doretta, the radiant aria for the heroine, Magda, in Puccini's La Rondine, and it was there more than anywhere where one appreciated the full range and intensity of her personality as well as her voice. In complete contrast the Vocalise of Rachmaninov with its wordless melismas was trance-like in the wrong way, lacking in variety.

Not that Miss Miricioiu

KILBURN
Robin Denslow

The Redskins

AT THE National Ballroom, Kilburn, came the Redskins — famous simply for being who they are. They have so far released only two singles for a major label, and have not made up a substantial hit, but they have still built up enough of a following to pack Kilburn's National Ballroom, at the end of their own national tour.

What they offer is a simple but unique blend of Clash-style energy mixed in with a love of Motown and Soul, and a strong line in left-wing polemic. When all that is channelled together successfully, as on their new single Bring It Down, the result is powerful. When they play live, though, the concoction is often a messy affair.

At Kilburn, where they appeared alongside the ever-delightful Ravi Shankar (fresh from starring in his own musical at Stratford East), The Redskins gave hints of their potential, but only achieved it on a few brief occasions. With the skin-headed Chris Dean and Martin Hewes up front on guitar and bass, a skin-headed drummer Paul Hooktip (borrowed from the Woodentops after the mysterious departure of their own Nick King) pounding behind them, and with soulful players added in for many songs, they looked impressive and kept their audience bopping up and down.

TV and radio highlights

Monday
Favourite Walks (BBC 2, 7.40). A breath of the great outdoors after Anna Rudge's dinky shops and galleries last week. Bill Oddie introduces us to the birds of Fair Isle: marsh warblers, puffsins, flumers, hand-gliding off the cliffs — a rare find — a red-footed falcon. Something of a strange little brown bird, himself, Oddie blends much better into the sub-fuse, green and grey landscape of Fair Isle than he does the jungle, like "a red-footed falcon" of Papua New Guinea where he tracks down birds of paradise and bower birds that flow in the dark in his new series. Oddie in Paradise, on Wednesday (BBC 1, 7.35).
Hotel New York (C4, 10.30). A Loulou in Wonderland tale billed as "Somewhere between Andy Warhol and Woody Allen". Loulou, played by the (French) director, Jackie Raynal, like a young Marlene Dietrich, comes to New York to show her new film and falls in with the city's weirdest, zany flatmates in a rock band, zay-film director who doesn't want "a dry seat in the house" understanding sugar daddy, and a woman without trying too hard.

Tuesday
Paris (BBC 2, 9.35). If it's better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all, this play by Ronald Frame, winner of the Betty Trask prize, suggests that if you haven't done either, imagination serves almost as well. Two old ladies, left by the tide in Glasgow, roam from coffee shop to art gallery chatting about clothes, their longing to go to Paris and their "parts." Gentle and enjoyable.
Fear On Trial (C4, 9.0). George C. Scott and William Devane (who looks like John F. Kennedy if somebody had sat on his head) bring a touch of class to this TV movie about a folkie, down home radio star who hit back with a libel suit after he was blacklisted during the McCarthy era.

Wednesday
Calum Kennedy's Commando Course (BBC 2, 9.0). Hilarious account of a nightmare tour by a Scottish variety show that declines from theatre to hotel dining rooms as it penetrates deeper into the

highlands and islands and, one by one, the artists disappear into the night. "One or two of them weren't up to it," says Kennedy, a kind of Wolfitt of the music hall whose stage act as writer/narrator Ian Wooldridge likens to "Rob Roy talking ballet lessons." Honour. Profit And Pleasure (C4, 9.0). Gossipy romp, lavishly costumed, that packages a little history (the arrival of the House of Hanover), a few contemporary luminaries (Swift, Pope) with a chronicle of Hanover's career from Rinaldo to the Messiah. Simon Callow shifts down a gear or two from Amadeus for a relatively restrained performance as the composer.

Thursday
Seeds Of Resistance (C4, 9.0). Forward with farming, forward with banking, down with the laxy, is the battle-cry of a group of highly self-motivated women who, having helped win their country's liberation war, are now fighting for their own independence. Second in the Promised The Earth series focuses on the curiously similar problems of women in Bolivia's shanty towns and Zimbabwe's hinterland.

Friday
Marjorie And Men (ITV, 8.30). Shamelessly sexist, near-farical and cringingly admit — quite funny new sitcom about a comely divorcee (Patricia Routledge) in search of her new prince. Timothy West, big-time green-grocer, friend of the Potato and memorable bore, shines as her would-be swain but Patricia Hayes, as her over-bearing mother, is a little tiresome in the latest in her line of eccentric scalliwags.

Radio
Today: Radio Active (Radio 4, 3.5 pm). Repeat of one of the best in the series, with Alex Jones, but since I have slapped Omnibus once or twice lately for sloppy standards, it's only fair perhaps to say that Angela Pope's film about Jones was beautifully shaped and convincing on a subject to which, at first, I was rather resistant.

The Miller Of God (Radio 4, 8.30 pm). Play by Stephanie Miller about a 16th century Protestant minister in Celtic lands. Queen Mary's reign — based on an historical event in Ipswich. Tomorrow: A Crying Shame (Radio 4, 4 pm). Investigation into the traditional male stiff upper lip: and what about the tears of Hurricane Higgins and other sportsmen? Antigone (Radio 3, 7.15 pm). First of four Jean Anouilh plays celebrating the dramatist's 75th birthday, with Jane Asher, Peter Vaughan and Norrdin Rodway.

In The Psychiatrist's Chair (Radio 4, 7.30 pm). Start of a new series of Dr Anthony Clare's revealing interviews, this time with men and women who have, in different ways, confronted life and death. First, with a convicted murderer. Monday: Wimbledon '85 (Radio 2, 2 pm). Useful and gossipy commentary from the experts for those who can't watch the fashionable architect, Richard Rogers.

A Book At Bedtime (Radio 4, 10.15 pm). Start of Alison Lurie's prize-winning novel about two American academics finding romance in London. Tuesday: The Season (Radio 4, 4 pm). Glyn Worsnip has just the right tone of voice to investigate the world of the debutante, past and present. In Search Of The Platypus (Radio 4, 9.30 pm). Repeat of this charming short talk in which Michael Pafford unravels a literary conundrum.

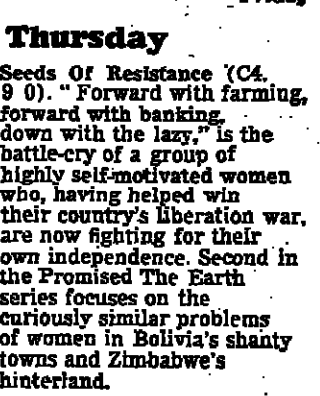
Wednesday: My Music (Radio 4, 6.30 pm). A golden oldie, but still glittering with more vivacity than its rivals.

Thursday: The Quality Of Cabinet Government (Radio 3, 7 pm). The reliable team of Peter Hennessy and producer Anne Winder tackle the system of Cabinet rule. The five-part series starts with an interview with Lord Wilson.

Friday: Actuality (Radio 4, 4 pm). Repeat of this diverting visit to the world of fortune telling.



Marjorie (Patricia Routledge): Friday

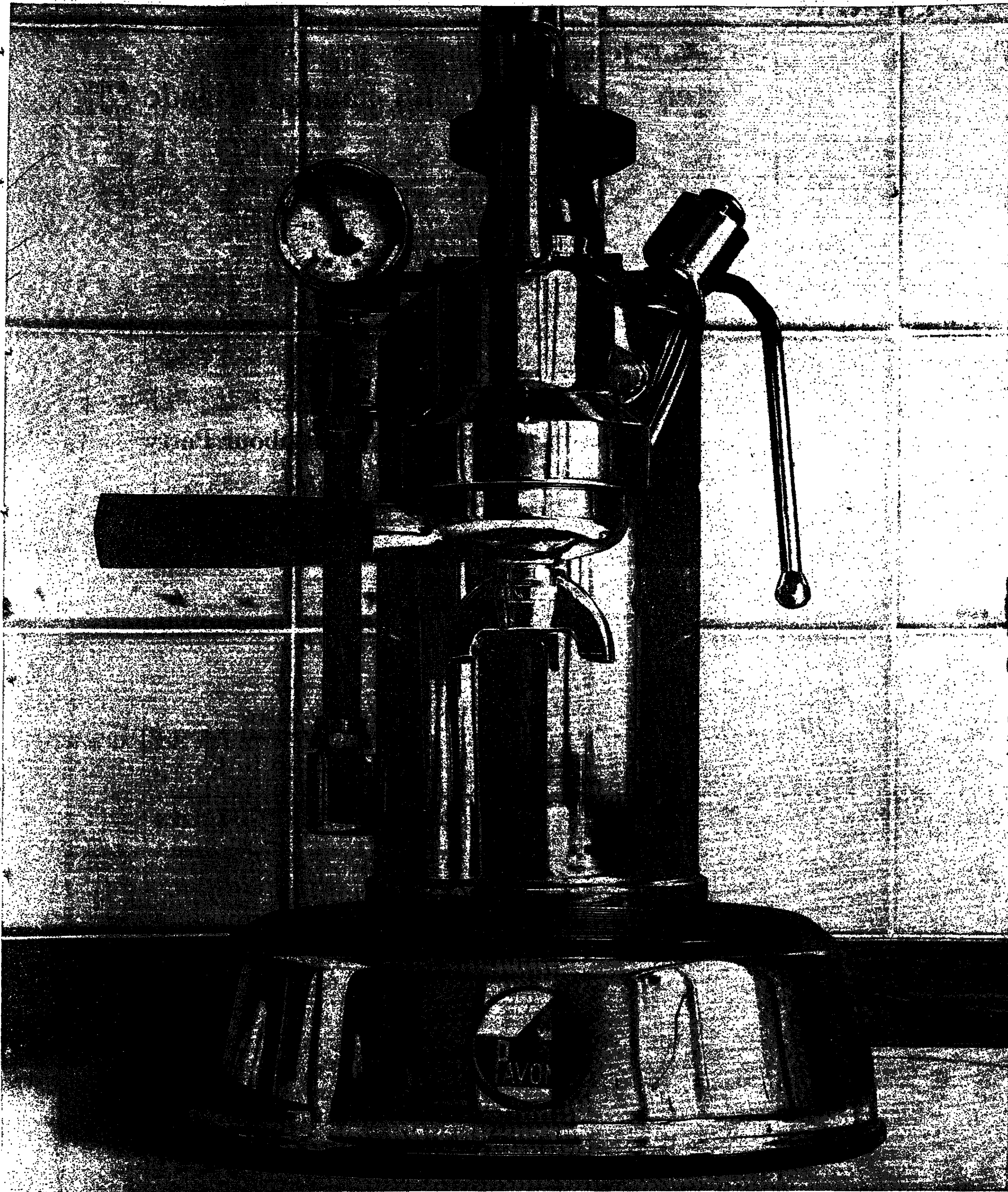


Seeds Of Resistance (C4, 9.0)

Helen Oldfield

Val Arnold-Forster

كسب المال



If it was his job to make coffee, he'd choose how to make it.

He'd got the taste for cappuccino when they were in Rome the year before. It wasn't just the flavour he liked, it was the whole relaxing business of gurgle and splutter. The sense Italians had of taking pleasure seriously.

Six months after they came back, he'd walked into a shop and bought one. It became a bit of a talking point at dinner parties. Something told him he might be starting a fashion.

If you want to enjoy your cappuccino in the sun, the American Express Card is welcomed by hotels, restaurants and bars all over Italy. And by shops selling kitchenware here, if you'd rather stick to your home ground.



The great carve-up at Chequers

Ministers meet at Chequers this weekend to work out a strategy for public spending against a distinctly inauspicious background in which cost overruns are already devouring the generous £5 billion contingency reserve set aside in 1983/84 for unforeseen circumstances. The Treasury is only able to keep more or less within the ceilings for public spending by selling off assets like British Telecom, British Gas and council houses and by forcing public enterprises to raise their prices more than they want and so act as tax gatherers to the Exchequer. Departmental spending bids for next year are apparently running £3 to £5 billion above the white paper ceilings, making it likely, once again, that a Star Chamber of Ministers will be forced to play bilateral poker with departments so that cuts are made according to no other principle than who dares wins. There must be a better way to organise spending priorities. There must be a better way.

Any restructuring of expenditure ought, for a start, to separate spending on capital projects from current spending (on pay, pensions, social security and the like). It is perfectly proper, indeed laudatory, to borrow money to spend on capital schemes and infrastructure where there is a reasonable rate of return to the community. Yet when cuts are made it has proved easier for departments to cut essential capital schemes, whether roads, schools or hospitals, rather than current spending.

Second, there is clearly further scope for improving the efficiency of the public sector (as, indeed, the private sector) as long as it is not done with a blunderbuss. Next week the CBI is due to publish in some detail how private sector techniques of cost saving implemented during the recession (like computerisation and sub-contracting) could be used — it is claimed — to cut public sector fat by five per cent a year. Some of the proceeds, the CBI hopes, would be used on infrastructural spending. So be it.

Third, the Cabinet needs its own think tank of Ministers to work out a long term restructuring of priorities touching the parts Star Chamber cannot reach. Does it make sense to be subsidising agriculture at a time of world food surplus while reducing industrial and research spending? Can the Treasury continue to forgo £5 billion a year in tax rebates to owner occupiers when the Government is hacking away at the benefits given back to the poor? Is Trident too big a cost for the military budget?

Finally, the high level of public spending cannot be divorced from the pace of economic expansion and the rising cost of financing the dispossessed. Does it make sense to pursue so relentlessly a high interest rate policy when the interest burden thus engendered now amounts to the equivalent of almost the entire borrowing requirement? Ministers should also ask whether a lower exchange rate might price people back into jobs (at the cost of a boost to inflation), thereby saving public spending.

It is glumly unlikely that the Chequers meeting will openly consider these questions. They (perish the prospect) involve changes in economic policy or attacking strong entrenched interests. The name of the game is, above all, to find expenditure savings which will finance the £3 billion a year of so far stillborn tax cuts which the Government hopes to introduce in the run up to the next election. On present showing that will only dimly be possible if enough of the asset stripping sales can be pushed through the pipeline.

In the global village pillory

Instinctively (and from malign experience) this paper tends to the cock-up rather than conspiracy theory of history. And yet, suppose the Beirut hijacking were pure conspiracy, orchestrated down to the last final detail by some media magician, in which case, it would be a flawless job. The plane load of American tourists in mid-air: the captain's desperate (and curiously available) conversations with airport control: the obligatory zigs and zags to Algiers, and waiting cameras: the calculated, penny packet release of weeping women and tired children, their televised pictures telling a harrowing story: the callous shooting of one brave young man, adding a touch of real horror: the second landing at Beirut and the hostage dispersal: the jet and the captain still parked in full view, giving interviews at the end of a pistol barrel: random shots to keep the brew stirring: five hostages in a confused — and visually dramatic — press conference: demonstrations: all of it relayed by satellite to America, where the descendant of White House comings and goings may be appended. Point by point, day by day, there have been fresh twists and new photo-opportunities. This is a conspiracy (your theorists might say) constructed with all the ingenuity of a Chinese puzzle, and played for every second of video time it can command. Television is not some peripheral observer. Television is integral to the perceived gravity of the matter, to its every contortion and perhaps (who can tell?) even to its conception. It was television — with the milling, demonstrating crowds and the endless picture access — which, in the beginning, made the Iranian hostage affair a matter of such domestic moment that Jimmy Carter had no chance of easing it from centre stage.

Whatever he wished by way of quiet diplomacy, there was always a banquet of melodrama on the nightly news, and Walter Cronkite intoned: "On the 37th day..." It was television, too, on a far smaller screen, which made the travellings of Terry Waite to Libya the stuff of constant headlines. And now, at Beirut airport and in the public choice that Ronald Reagan must soon take, the arc lights are blazing again. Whilst there were just a few American hostages tucked away in Lebanon, with no cameras in attendance, the problem was dulcet and far away. When Lebanese groups — with bloodthirsty threats — secured a press retreat from Beirut, the problem itself seemed to recede. But this week Mr Reagan, like Mr Carter before him, is bound hand and foot on the green of the global village he has, in part, helped create. The great communicator is finding how mass communication can swiftly turn the tables, how pictures of aircraft carriers steaming impotently on a blue Mediterranean sea may become instant symbols.

In a sense there is nothing to conclude from this macabre scenario. NBC and CBS and ABC are like TWA or Pan-Am or British Airways. They are modern facts of a modern world. The planes make hijacking possible: the cameras of the networks make reporting that deed possible. You can't (as in Grenada) shut the whole thing off. You don't have that control. But there is, perhaps, a more sombre reflection for the broadcasters and reporters themselves. They are doing their competitive, frenetic job. There is no other role they can perform. But just as, with prickly independence, they revolt against the smooth manipulation of image-conscious politicians, so there is another land of manipulation to guard against: the possibility — the mere possibility — that they are, by design, players in a bloody piece of theatre written and directed by someone the cameras will never see.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The charge of the heavy-handed brigade

A risk of over reaction

Sir, — Aware that the Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum were considering introducing charges, we asked our members if they agreed with the principle of free access to our museums and galleries which has long been the tradition in our country. Ninety-four per cent of those who replied said they did.

In the event the Victoria and Albert trustees decided not to charge, but this was hardly surprising, because their museum, unlike the National Maritime Museum, does not enjoy a Treasury dispensation to re-use the income so raised.

The V & A, one of the greatest educational museums in the world, has now decided to introduce a voluntary donation system at £2 per head. This could have a potentially destructive effect as the introduction of charges. Two heavies on either side of a turnstile can be as much, if not more, of a deterrent than a straight charge.

No research has been done to find out who is turned away by charges. Voluntary or otherwise, but it is reasonable to assume that

they include the less well off, the young, and the casual and regular "short time" visitors. The loss of such an important section of our public is impossible to justify educationally and hard to value in financial terms. Is it right, then, that in a time of severe financial restraint, galleries should be closed more, on fewer people?

Since introducing charging, the National Maritime Museum has, as its Director admits, lost 10 to 15 per cent of its public. When charges were introduced, briefly, at the Victoria and Albert Museum a decade ago, visitors fell by an estimated 30 to 40 per cent.

We know more money is needed for our museums' collections and public services (though we have little sympathy for government departments that do not look after their buildings), but there are ways of raising funds through shops, sponsorship, promotions and donations that do not strain at the public whose collections are in our care.

If a voluntary payment system has to be introduced, can we suggest that it really is voluntary and that it is

gathered not on the way in, but on the way out, thereby deterring no one, and perhaps gaining a little by genuine gratitude. — Yours John Spalding, Secretary, Art Galleries Association, Manchester City Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester.

Sir, — It is unfortunate that your report on the introduction of "voluntary" admission fees at the Victoria & Albert Museum gives little detail of how such charges are to be collected. Voluntary implies freedom of choice in making such a payment whilst the

concurrent use of the term fee implies exactly the opposite. If the directorate of the museum is confident that the public will willingly contribute towards the museum's expenses then surely it would be more honest to solicit contributions from visitors as they are leaving, fired with enthusiasm for the collections and a desire to positively help the museum. Experience both in 1974, and more recently at Greenwich, has shown that the introduction of an admission charge does provoke a drop in visitor figures. The moral blackmail which is to be attempted at the V & A will

surely have the same result. Many people already find the portals of our grand national institutions inhibiting enough without the additional problem of whether or not they have the financial ability to pay an admission fee, compulsory or not.

The scheme as outlined in your report makes no reference to the large number of people who are currently unemployed or on very low incomes, are they somehow exempted from such a proposal or are they expected to produce the full "voluntary" fee?

Admission charges, in whatever form they appear, for viewing the basic collections at our national museums are surely a move in the wrong direction, and in the long term will mean that museum collections built up and developed by the nation as a whole, will become even more inaccessible to all of those who have contributed to that development. — Yours John Goldsmith, Secretary, Museum Professionals Group, Museum and Art Gallery, South Humberdale.

Sir, — I detect an excess of optimism, or perhaps even naivete, in your correspondent (June 19) who says the people of Calithness are rejoicing at the application to build a new reprocessing plant at Dounreay.

Having visited the plant some years ago at the invitation of the Atomic Energy Authority, I would advise them not to count their jobs before they have been re-created. They should remember that British Nuclear Fuels Ltd secured permission to build the oxide reprocessing plant at Windscale in 1976, and this was endorsed by the public inquiry in 1977. But by 1983 it had not started on the actual building.

Why? Not because it lacked foreign orders, but because it lacked the technical capacity to build the plant. In fact there are no plant orders for the proposed Dounreay plant, because there are no commercial fast reactors working in Europe or the US.

The concept of fast reactor reprocessing is hazardous in the extreme. The emissions from the irradiated fuel are exceptionally high: the chemistry of separating the actinides, and particularly the plutonium, is not a proven process; and the amount of plutonium lost in effluents is problematic.

Perhaps most fearful of all is the cost. At about £2,000 a kilogram, reprocessed plutonium is way out of the reach of market forces — which is one reason why the Government has decided against building a UK commercial reactor this century.

Why then assume that we can stay in the nuclear arena by taking on the most dangerous and expensive end of the fuel cycle? Dr Swanson, head of the fuel cycle at Dounreay, said recently on television that what was at stake was the future of the prototype reactor. That is true, but only because it does not work. Out of 242 reactors in the world, it is third from the bottom in operating performance.

With a reprocessing plant, however, there will be a risk, and a serious one. The inhabitants of Calithness should think hard before they rejoice. — Yours Colin Sweet, Centre for Energy Studies, Polytechnic of the South Bank, London, SE1.

In your court, Sir Michael

Sir, — The decision of the Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, not to prosecute myself and the Moleworth 22 (June 18) raises more questions than it answers.

Through a leaflet, first signed and distributed at RAF Moleworth on May 22, we have unambiguously and repeatedly called on members of the armed forces to obey the international laws of war (the Hague, Geneva and Geneva Conventions) and to refuse to obey orders to guard, maintain, transport or fire first-use nuclear weapons such as cruise missiles, on the grounds that they are clearly illegal under these international statutes.

Since then, we have begun posting copies of our leaflet direct to military commanders and distributing it to servicemen and women at army barracks and housing estates all over the country.

Despite all this, the Attorney-General has decided not to initiate any prosecutions under the 1938 Incitement to Disaffection Act and in so doing, has raised many new questions which he must now answer.

Is his decision not to prosecute a tacit admission that international law prohibits nuclear weapons, and that the Government's nuclear weapons policy is thus illegal?

Was it based on the Government's fear that such a prosecution would not stand up in a court of law precisely because it is the Government which is acting illegally by arming itself with nuclear weapons, and training military personnel for their possible use?

Since the Attorney-General has decided not to prosecute myself and the Moleworth 22, does this mean that informing members of the armed forces of their obligations to obey international law and refuse illegal nuclear orders is thus perfectly lawful and that no member of the public so engaged will face prosecution in the future?

And finally, if my actions and those of the Moleworth 22 are not unlawful, will the Government now follow our example by openly disaffirming its nuclear weapons policy to all service personnel, as they are required to do by the international laws of war, copies of all the relevant international statutes which render nuclear weapons illegal? — Yours Peter Tatechell, London SE1

Sir, — The resignation of Mr Peter Taylor from the Department of the Environment over the issue of nuclear dumping highlights the most disturbing aspect of the Government's approach to matters nuclear and their effects on our health and environment.

Soon, the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr George Younger, will announce that he intends to hold a public inquiry into the application by UKAEA/BNFL to build a nuclear reprocessing plant at Dounreay. Despite the fact that this project has clear implications for our energy policy well into the next century, will it reprocess fuel from a whole new generation of fast breeder reactors — there is every indication that Mr Younger intends to order an inquiry with an extremely limited remit.

Should this be the case, it will be a further move away from meaningful democratic debate in an area where informed and reasoned debate, at least in official channels is already in short supply.

If the Government is now about to stop even pretending to consult and consider objections on matters as important as our future energy policy and the possible widespread degradation of our environment, then it is time that we all became very concerned indeed. — Yours, Michael Collie, Scottish Ecology Party, 11 Forth Street, Edinburgh.

Racism that is rife in the Labour Party

Sir, — One of the best arguments for the need for Black Sections in the Labour Party is the insulting tone of those who argue against us.

First we are accused of fomenting apartheid when we all know apartheid to be a brutal system which murders black people. This is doubly insulting as many Black Section activists are in the forefront of the solidarity movement with the freedom struggle in Azania (South Africa).

The purpose of this insulting label is to claim that we are in favour of separating black and white Labour Party members. In reality, we believe Black Sections can help end the separation which now exists whereby black voters vote Labour but the National Executive Committee and the Parliamentary Labour Party are all-white preserves. Black Sections can help draw black

people into Labour Party activity, allowing them to organise and play a bigger role in their wards, on general management committees and so on. This is what has tended to happen where Black Sections have been set up.

We are then told by Roy Hattersley and others that it is difficult to define "black". Yet the Home Office has no problem with definitions when it deports our sisters and brothers. Police officers have no problems when they harass black youth. Roy may have problems, but he should let us define ourselves. If you are oppressed by racism and identify yourself as black then you are welcome in the Labour Party Black Section. For us, Black is a political colour. And, for the information of Roy Hattersley (Letters, June 19), this does include Chinese people. In

deed, our previous Secretary was of Chinese origin.

Next we are told that Black Section activists are nothing but ambitious careerists. I would give more weight to his argument if black people in the Labour Party were allowed to develop their careers, but unfortunately the racism within the party hinders this. Why is it we rarely hear described as such the hundreds of white careerists in Parliament, but whenever black politicians put themselves forward they are immediately denounced as careerists?

Finally, we have Neil Kinnock accusing us of being "repellent" and "bankrupt". We could counter that past Labour governments' policies on race have been repellent and bankrupt such as the tight immigration laws and the Nationality, Green Paper which laid the basis

for the current Nationality Party. Fortunately, the Labour Party has changed its views on some of these policies, but it has reneged on its policies in the past when it has come to power. We believe that black people in the party have to organise to stop this from happening and to make sure that the party campaigns against racism now.

Surely involving more black people in the Labour Party and campaigning against racism can only strengthen the party and benefit both black and white people? Unfortunately, Councillor Johnston believes there are too many other urgent tasks to bother about tackling racism. Need I say more? — Yours, Chris Khamis, Black Section National Committee, 181 Chatsworth Road, London NW5.

The Branch that needs surgery

Sir, — In his piece on the Special Branch (June 15) Harold Jackson referred to the judicial inquiry carried out into the South Australian Special Branch which had been administered by a former British Chief Constable. The records which had been kept there were found by Mr Justice White to be irrelevant as that inquiry was for security purposes.

In his evidence to the recent Home Affairs Select Committee's investigation into the Special Branch, Mr J. C. Alderson, the former Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, said he had, at the time, gone personally to the Special Branch files and a high proportion were either out of date, useless, or of a kind that one would not wish to keep because they were not serious or had nothing to do with crime.

Mr Jackson, in his article, referred to these files on various political and peace activists. It is difficult to believe that the situation is different in other areas of the country, although no doubt with more reluctance on the part of Chief Constables.

A short cut to famine relief

Sir, — Much has been heard recently of the famine in Sudan and in particular the problems of transporting food to the western region of Darfur. In response to this crisis the EEC has promised £8 million for the renovation of the railway to the west and the British government has pledged £6 million to the Sudanese Children's Agency responsible for relief in Darfur. However getting 500 miles of track working is a long term solution and even when the line is reached Sudan they will still encounter the problems caused by the rains to the

bles to do what Mr Alderson had done.

Apart from the recommendation that there should be a change in the definition used to describe subversion, the Minority Report signed by Labour MPs on the Select Committee, also argued that there was a strong case for the same kind of thorough inquiry into the practices and records of the special branch as that which occurred in South Australia; they went on to recommend that an independent Commission of Inquiry be set up for this purpose.

It is not surprising that Conservative MPs should have been unwilling to countenance criticism of the Special Branch, and there remains a strong feeling on the Tory benches that political investigation by the police and security agencies on many trades unions and those involved in the peace movement, is fully justified. This is another area which, hopefully, the next Labour government will be more willing to deal with than the previous occasion when the party was in office.

David Winnick, House of Commons.

Miscellany at large

Sir, — Last night I spoke, at the invitation of the Labour Party, at a public meeting in the Brecon and Radnor byelection which was attended by many hundreds of people with an overflow in another hall.

I then read (Agenda, June 21) an article by Ian Aitken which stated that "Mr Tony Benn had invited himself to join the campaign," implying that my presence was not welcome.

Mr Aitken's story is completely and absolutely untrue, as he could have discovered for himself by asking me or Allan Rogers MP who is working for the Party in the constituency, throughout the campaign, and who personally issued the official invitation to me to speak, which I accepted immediately. — Yours sincerely, Tony Benn MP, House of Commons.

Sir, — To label Pound a "fascist" as you do (June 20) in your title to Walderman Januszczak's article on the exhibition "Pound's Artists" is a distortion of the truth. Despite the fanaticism of the Rome broadcasts (which he subsequently regretted) he remained a Jeffersonian democrat, believing in the words of the Canto: "...that despotism of absolute power... unlimited sovereignty, is the same in a majority of a popular assembly, as in an aristocratic council, or an oligarchical junta, and a single emperor, equally arbitrary bloody, and in every respect diabolical." — Yours faithfully, William Jackson, London SW 11.

Sir, — I agree with George Steele on the subject of Roy Hattersley's botany (Letters, June 20), but he is wrong about the plantain's beneficial effects. I was brought

up in Holland and as children we always had the leaves of the Greater Plantain to soothe the little stings. There were always plenty of dock leaves but I can't remember them ever being used for that purpose. All the same, the Government definitely sounds like a dock! — Yours sincerely, Anna Ellis, Huddersfield.

Sir, — My astonishment that the Southrop police can find time to search for a person who filled the Town Hall's telephone answering machine with Handel's Messiah (June 19) is only exceeded by my curiosity about just what charge they have in mind.

If they cannot adapt one of the existing statutes in order to deal with the news depths of depravity which this joker has brought to our seemingly endless catalogue of crime, then no doubt this government will obligingly stampee Parliament into some suitable bit of new legislation in order to demonstrate society's disapproval of this alarming and dangerous phenomenon. — Yours sincerely, Allan Horsfall, Manchester.

Sir, — I notice that Demis Roussos sang to the hijackers and rejoice that they did not go entirely unpunished. — Yours faithfully, Henry Watts, Manchester.

Sir, — Apropos Mr Clinton's wretched remarks at the recent parish meeting (Diary, June 20): We don't have Chief Inspectors living in Moss Side. It is obvious that they are strangers. There is nothing in Moss Side to attract people from Winslow except the excuse to put their odious racism into practice. — Yours etc, (Rev) Alec Balfie Mitchell, United People's Church, Moss Side, Manchester.

A COUNTRY DIARY

THE LAKE DISTRICT: For easy going, vast changing views across the tops to the Scottish hills and switchback walking all the way there's nothing better in the fell country than the cluster of mountain ridges around Coledale Hause. You can do a lengthy round of thirteen summits from Braithwaite or Buttermere — on the map more the shape of a squashed spider than a circle — and finish breezily at the foot, almost ready, if really necessary, to go round again. I last did that a couple of years ago and the other day, ambled over Grisedale Pike, Grammoor and Craig Gill (or El Crag, as we all know it), without stopping, in such ridiculously short time that I was back home again half-way through the afternoon, hours before opening time. Fitness has nothing to do

All at sea

Sir, — With reference to the article (June 19) concerning the proposed licence fees to be charged to yachtsmen using navigational aids, it is to be hoped that should this come into effect that the Government would have the courtesy of ensuring that such aids are maintained.

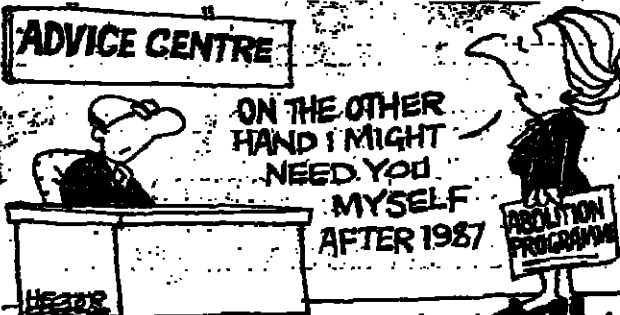
I cannot imagine any yachtsman in the North West gladly paying any licence fees when, as a recent example, the most useful Great Orme light has been extinguished. Ironically, somewhat when the big ships no longer need it. Does the Government realise that not only do these navigational aids assist pleasure boating but the other great branch of the professional seafaring fraternity, the fishermen, and these aids must be maintained. The implications of the proposal must be very carefully thought out before it will find ready acceptance. — J.E. Martin, Mart Edge, Presbury.

Stones cold

Sir, — The people who use Stonehenge as a spiritual focus, rather than a tourist attraction or object of archaeological interest, are the people who, given the chance, keep Stonehenge alive.

Now, the conservationists, in their efforts to preserve the stones, have killed the spirit of Stonehenge. It is a mistake to think that preserving something keeps it alive. Living things, born, grow, grow old, deteriorate and die. Preserved things are already dead — mummies, pressed flowers, flies in amber.

The sad thing about all this is that something alive has been killed to preserve it. As in Vietnam: "To save the village we had to destroy it." — Yours faithfully, Lucy Scott-Moncrieff, London NW 5.



driven to seek advice because of severe financial stress. The proposed abolition of the GLC and metropolitan councils, ratecapping and continuing cuts in Urban Aid, all of which are major sources of funding for advice centres, mean that advice centres are likely to close in large numbers across the country. — Karen Mackay, Federation of Independent Advice Centres, 13 Stockwell Road, London SW9.

to independent advice is under threat. The proposed abolition of the GLC and metropolitan councils, ratecapping and continuing cuts in Urban Aid, all of which are major sources of funding for advice centres, mean that advice centres are likely to close in large numbers across the country. — Karen Mackay, Federation of Independent Advice Centres, 13 Stockwell Road, London SW9.

WEEKEND SPORT

Wimbledon starts on Monday. David Irvine assesses the rivals, Navratilova and Lloyd; the danger men (right); and the top seeds (below)

The joint first ladies



IN nominating Chris Lloyd and Martina Navratilova as joint favourites for this year's championship, Wimbledon have been accused of "chickening out." Yet what greater compliment could they have paid two of the greatest players to grace the women's game.

At a stroke — an inspired and unique stroke at that — they have encapsulated their own and the public's recognition and thanks. What they have said is that each, in her own way, deserves to be number one.

As in all individual sports — those, as the Americans put it, providing a one-on-one situation — tennis thrives on rivalries. And down the years the game has had them in abundance. Though none, I suggest, quite as enduring or of such quality as that sustained by Lloyd and Navratilova.

It began one January night in Akron, Ohio, when an unknown 16-year-old from Prague, making her first visit to the United States, took on America's brightest star, the Ice Maiden they called her, in a first-round match. Predictably enough it was Lloyd, or Chrissie Evert as she was then, who won.

That was in 1973. Since then they have played a further 84 matches in 10 locations across the globe — from Tokyo to Melbourne, from Rome to San Francisco; from clay to grass, from cement to carpet — without ever growing tired at the prospect.

"To me tennis simply wouldn't be the same without Chris." That is how Navratilova sums it up. Martina's the one incentive that has kept me playing and



COMPLEMENTARY: Navratilova (left) and Lloyd after another great confrontation, The French Open final which Lloyd won

working," says Lloyd. And both are agreed that, without the other, they would have been lesser players.

Even so, it's a rivalry that isn't just match-making. Not that they are under threat. They do not expect to be deposed, merely to abdicate. But the years of travelling and dedication have started to take their toll. Though the years younger than Lloyd, who has retirement on her mind, Navratilova hinted in Paris recently that she did not intend to "outlast" her by much.

"Somehow I don't think

our careers will overlap a great deal," she said then. "I just hope she stays around a little bit longer because, quite honestly, she's playing better tennis now than she ever did. It must be nice to know that you can still improve at 30."

Nevertheless there are some close to Lloyd who believe this year's Wimbledon, her 14th, may be her last. Others say that next year's championships, the 100th, may prove too tempting for her to miss. Much could depend on how the next two weeks develop.

Having already won the Australian and French titles, taking her halfway to a Grand Slam — the only major honour which still eludes her — she is a great deal happier about her game than she was 12 months ago.

At the same time she has had to learn to pace herself. "I can no longer put 100 per cent of the intensity I once had into 52 weeks of the year and every match I play. My only real goals now are to beat Martina and win some more big titles." Which amounts to one and the same thing.

Victory in Paris, after being so close to defeat, was Lloyd's finest achievement for three years. Having fallen to Navratilova in successive finals at Flushing Meadows, Paris, Wimbledon and Flushing again, even she had begun to wonder if she no longer had the capacity to stop her rival in an event that really mattered to them both.

"I would have been very depressed about my tennis had I lost," admits Lloyd. "It was my own fault that I let it go to three sets. But knowing that I can still play well and beat her is enormously satisfying and will make playing for the rest of the year a lot more fun."

Emotionally it was a setback for Navratilova. "Yes, there were some tears." But, as a true professional, she was able to rationalise her performance. "The one single thing that would have won me the match was my serve. It wasn't there when I needed it. That's the story in a nutshell."

Should similar problems emerge over the next two weeks the champion is well aware she could become vulnerable. Which is why she and her coach, Mike Estep, have concentrated so much work at Eastbourne this week on that one aspect of her game.

With her serve in working order, the odds must favour Navratilova at Wimbledon. Her serve and volley style is tailor-made for grass, whereas Lloyd's less adventurous, but more precise, baseline game depends far more on the accuracy of her groundstrokes.

Though the head says Navratilova, many hearts will be beating their support for Lloyd. A victory for her would bring a fascinating symmetry back to their rivalry. That would make it 33 wins each. And wasn't it Navratilova who said, when she was to keep the most viable contenders apart until the latter stages of the tournament and produce the best competition possible.

The main consequence over the past 10 years, then,

Floater can expect another good year

IT'S THE sort of question they ask on Sportsbrain. "Name, in the right order, the unseeded players who have reached the men's semi-finals at Wimbledon in each of the last eight years." "Er of the last eight years... John McEnroe, Tom Okker, Pat... what's his name? Pat DUPE! Brian Gottfried, Tim Mayotte, Chris Lewis... he made the final of course — and Pat Cash."

Not quite. You omitted Rod Fawley in 1981. Still with tennis: when was the last time the four top seeds reached the semifinals with No. 1 subsequently beating No. 2 for the title? Time's up. Nineteen sixty-nine. Rod Laver defeated John Newcombe for his fourth championship. Arthur Ashe and Tony Roche were the losing semi-finalists. Now on to horse racing...

Based on that sort of evidence it does appear that the seeding committee have not fared too well of late. But in their defence, it should be appreciated that judgement decision effectively ended in 1975 when, at the Association of Tennis Professionals' insistence, they were superseded by computer predictions "based on all available data."

The one weakness in the computer method has been its inability to make allowances for surface changes. Whereas the committee were well aware that a clay-courtier like Manuel Orantes or Harold Solomon — or, among this year's seeds, Aaron Krickstein and Anders Jarryd — would be at a serious disadvantage on grass, the computer's calculations are based solely on seeds.

Hence the belief which has grown among players that a seeding is a protection earned, whereas in fact, when the system was introduced at the 1967 championships its primary purpose was to keep the most viable contenders apart until the latter stages of the tournament and produce the best competition possible.

The main consequence over the past 10 years, then,



LUCKOO IN THE NEST: Boris Becker a dangerous outsider

has been the growth of a guessing game to see which of the floaters with evidence of grass-court talent would confound the system. As question one indicates, quite a few have succeeded. At the same time there is also possibility that the draw will jump the best outsiders in the same half — as has happened this year.

Take a poll among the players and the outsiders most frequently nominated to cause damage are Boris Becker, Scott Davis, Paul Annacone, Henri Leconte, Greg Holmes, Robert Green, Mike Leach, and Slobodan Zivonjovic. All are in the lower half of the draw; Ivan Lendl's and Mats Wilander's half.

Take another poll to establish which seeds are seen as the most vulnerable and the names mentioned are Jarryd, Krickstein, Yannick Noah, Joakim Nystrom and Eliot Teltscher. Again, all are to be found in the lower half.

Apart from fiddling the draw, which is an impossibility, there is clearly no way these floaters can be evenly distributed. Which raises the question: if Wimbledon insist, as they do, on maintaining their rights to deviate from the computer's recommendations, why do they not

exercise it in a way that would benefit the tournament?

In the meantime a close watch will obviously be kept on the progress of Becker, who won so commandingly at Queen's last Sunday; Annacone, who went from qualifying to the quarters last year; Leconte, whose serve-and-volley game took him to the last eight in Paris; Davis, runner-up at the new two-week Players championships at Delray Beach in February; and Zivonjovic, whose rocket-launching serve may well worry Wilander on Monday.

Though these are the most obvious candidates to become cuckoo in the Establishment nest, the qualifying contingent could also spring some surprises. A week at Roehampton is regarded as one of the toughest preparations possible and Lendl, for one, will not readily forget how he was ambushed by the Australian qualifier Charlie Fencott on the opening day in 1981.

To most, however, Becker is the one to be feared. At 17 his serve is already one of the hardest in the game, and Johan Kriek, the man he beat in the Queen's final, is unequivocal. "If he maintains that sort of level, he can win Wimbledon."

FIGURE OF EIGHT: HOW THE TOP MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SEEDS SHAPE UP FOR THE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS



1. JOHN MCENROE (US), 25: Can the Invisible Man remain the Invisible Man? In hiding himself from the public gaze (and the press) — "I want to spend the least time possible in England" — Mac may just be miscalculated by his own annual rehearsal at Wimbledon. But don't bet on it. He has already won six tournaments this year, for a 44-4 match record, and knows he could be the first American to win Wimbledon three years in a row.

2. IVAN LENDL (Czech), 30: Eat to Win is Ivan the Terrible's motto. His nutritionist, Robert Hase, clearly hasn't bargained for his indignation in Paris. Maybe he should step up the fish content. At least he's been smart enough to hire Tony Roche to boost his grass-court game against lefties. Paris apart, he has ruled the circuit since February and could make his first Wimbledon final. After that...

3. JIMMY CONNORS (US), 32: Remember that heart-cry in '75 when Arthur Ashe mesmerised him? "I'm trying for Chris's sake!" Well, Jimbo's still trying; only it's proving even harder a decade on. Recently he's had uncertainty over which racket to use and now is back with Old Faithful, his steel T2000. Doesn't regard himself as finished, though, even if he hasn't won a tournament since October. After all Arthur Ashe was 41 when he became champion in 1969.

4. MATS WILANDER (Swe), 20: Already half-way to a Grand Slam would you believe, and eager to improve on his previous Wimbledon best, a fourth-round place in 1982. By superstar standards something of a shrinking violet. But life is more to Mats than merely clouting tennis balls. "It being No. 1 means I have to practise eight hours a day then it's just not worth it." Not to be underestimated, though. Two Australian titles are proof of his ability on grass.

5. ANDERS JARRYD (Swe), 23: No. 2 in the Viking herds and more of a reliable plodder than a spectacular winner. Looks very mild-mannered but can trade verbal volleys with the best and gets away with it because he sticks to Swedish. Mentions Ralston, Tracy, Buster Mottram, Andy Andrews and Scott Davis and he could just get upset. Because of them he's never advised to rest. "I can't afford to," he insists. "And I reckon I'm a better player now." Maybe.

6. PAT CASH (Aus), 20: Potentially the best product from Down Under since John Newcombe. Known as another of the game's Angry Young Men. Semi-finalist at Wimbledon and US Open last year where, so it's said, he smashed all his rackets after losing from match-point to Lendl in the semis. Developed chronic back trouble this year, with a marked loss of form, and has been advised to rest. "I can't afford to," he insists. "And I reckon I'm a better player now." Maybe.

7. JOAKIM NYSTROM (Swe), 22: No, there's no truth in the rumour that he practises at home under the Northern Lights. But he is the only touring pro to live just 200 miles from the Arctic Circle. And he is one of the few players to have stopped McEnroe this year. Originally built his reputation on clay but has begun to blossom into a useful all-court competitor. Would much prefer, though, to be an ice hockey star.

8. KEVIN CURREN (US), 27: Since ramming 32 aces past Connors on Court Two in 1983, Curren has been one of the most respected grass-court specialists. Though born in South Africa took US citizenship this year to avoid political problems on the circuit. Little recent form to go on — he's just spent three weeks in the South African bush on safari — but he won trophies in Toronto and was sharpening his game nicely at Queen's.



Joint 1. MARTINA NAVRATILOVA (US), 30: Consistency is still the name of her game. In each of the last 12 years she has captured a major title. Is a fourth Wimbledon title possible? Claims to be playing "better than ever," but also admits that retirement thoughts are at the back of her mind. Where better to retire than at the top? All will be revealed.

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3. HANA MANDLIKOVA (Cz), 22: Seven years into a fluctuating career and still as unpredictable as ever. Like Longfellow's Little Girl "When she's good, she's very, very good, but when she's bad, she's horrid." Never to be taken lightly, though. A wonderful talent in the Bueno-Cawley mould with a game perfectly suited to grass.

4. MANUELA MALEEVA (Bulg), 18: Voted Most Impressive Newcomer by fellow players for 1984 — and deservedly so after winning five tournaments. A baseliner by training and inclination, straight from the Lloyd mould, but adapted well to teach the Wimbledon quarters at her second attempt. Tours with her mother, Yulia, who was nine times Bulgarian champion, and 15-year-old sister Katerina, who is already ranked in the top 30.

5. PAM SHRIVER (US), 22: Perennial bridesmaid since becoming the youngest US finalist in '78. Took a three month break earlier this year "to recharge my batteries." Returned, rejuvenated, and has since won consecutive titles at Sydney, Melbourne and Birmingham. Natural attacking player but tends to look a little stiff — partly on account of her size and partly because of chronic back and shoulder problems. Confidence high, and that's important.

6. CLAUDIA KOHDE-KILSCH (W. Ger), 21: Tall, leggy girl with deceptively casual style — which took her to the semifinals in Paris. Her exceptional reach at the net makes her difficult to pass and since concentrating on sprint work she has become much sharper about the court. Was German champion in 1984 but has potential to do even better.

7. HELENA SUKOVA (Cz), 20: Born three years after her late mother, Vera, was a Wimbledon finalist, and has now emerged as a contender in her own right. Ended Navratilova's 74-match streak at the Australian Open in November — then lost the final to Lloyd — and also made the final of the Virginia Slims championship. Evidently a big occasion player. A big-game player, too, with an intimidating style expected from an athletic six-footer.

8. ZINA GARRISON (US), 21: Youngest of seven this young Texan, last year the first black girl to be seeded since Althea Gibson won in 1958, is one of the few genuine products of American parks tennis. Made a big breakthrough in April when she beat Mandlikova and Lloyd to win the WTA championship at Amelia Island. A stubborn and persistent player with powerful groundstrokes.

WEEKEND SPORT: TWO

John Rodda at Birmingham

Ovett shows the old power

ATHLETICS

Steve Ovett came back to international track athletics for the first time since being carried on a stretcher at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, last night, and won the 3,000 metres for England against the US in the McVitie's Challenge at Birmingham with all the panache and polish that he has done over 10 years of international running.

The Birmingham crowd responded with a roar which delighted Ovett as he accelerated into the back straight with the sort of surge which has taken him to countless victories. After illness and trauma, nothing seems to be missing in the make-up of the man. He pulled away from David Lewis, with sharp turns of the head to see there was no danger, accelerated again along the straight, and lifted a hand in acknowledgement of the appreciation.

Then, with plenty of space to spare, he shut down the power and eased home in 7min 55.85sec but the more significant time was the 37.1sec in which he covered his last two hundred metres.

It was a slow, liverish-looking sort of race until that final lap in which Jim Spivey, fifth in the Olympic 1,500 metres but who was moved to the 3,000 metres to challenge Ovett, really did not get into the hunt. He shadowed Ovett until two laps from home but when Tim Hutchings turned up the pace and Ovett slipped into second place behind him, the American's challenge just slipped away.

Max Robertson, from the Wolverhampton and Bilston club in his first international, came close to making it a winning beginning in the 400 metres hurdle. He faced Tony Rambo, one of the world's top 10 at the event and a vastly experienced athlete, and took him on bravely.

Robertson, one lane inside the American, had a considerable edge by the time they rose for the fourth flight and he held that lead until the turn into the home straight when he was completely overtaken. Rambo, in fact, had a family stride at the eighth flight, where there was water lying on the surface — but he could claw back the gap with at least one hurdle to

Sandy Sutherland at Meadowbank

McKay leaps to title

Ken McKay of the Pitreavie club put respectability back into Scottish long jumping with a remarkable second-round effort which took the Scottish title at Meadowbank last night.

McKay, a 27-year-old PE teacher at Linsey Macdonald's old school in Dunfermline, launched himself out to 7.72 metres (25ft 4in), which not only puts him third on the current UK ranking list but is also the longest leap ever achieved by a Scot in any conditions.

The Scottish national record of 7.57 metres, sent in by Bob Beamon, was still standing in Monday's race, but first he was not ratified because of a following wind of 3.6 metres per second.

The performance also cost him a hamstring injury which meant he could take no further part in the competition but McKay was so delighted at

John Rodda

Birmingham blow

OLYMPIC GAMES

Birmingham's bid to stage the 1992 Olympic Games was launched yesterday — but it looks like being rate-capped before reaching the first hurdle in the contest against Manchester and London to decide which city to put forward to the Olympic International Committee.

Councillor Ken Barton, deputy leader of Birmingham's Labour Council, and a former Minister of Sport, Denis Howell, one of the city's MPs, admitted that they will need to find over a million pounds to promote the bid internationally if the British Olympic Association selects Birmingham on July 12.

A critical report of the Birmingham scheme by council officers has indicated that there is no money to carry the bid beyond the present stage, which has cost £110,000 to put together.

"We are bringing this matter out into the open, confident that we can find the necessary money, when the BOA chooses Birmingham," says Barton. "Birmingham has made it clear it would expect the Government and other agencies to underwrite the cost of promoting the bid in the international arena."

Howell said that he had already been in discussions with the Sports Council, who are prepared to contribute to

go, that would probably put his young rival in his place.

That is exactly what happened. Robertson tried to pull back on the run-in, but Rambo had something in hand. Robertson said afterwards: "No. 9 was wrong and I bottled out at No. 10." For an athlete, who went under 50 seconds for the first time only last weekend when winning the Southern title, it was nevertheless an excellent start to an international career. He is tough, tall enough and clearly has the courage.

Rambo's time was 49.80sec, with Robertson on 50.09sec. Dal Lavery returning 50.44sec. The Olympic bronze medal winner of 1980 in Moscow, Gary Oakes, finished fifth in 51.30sec.

The 800 metres produced a close race from the Los Angeles Olympic Games. Last night, 1,500 metres it was Sebastian Coe hurtling through the finishing straight of the 1,500 metres to a second gold medal in that event, leaving Steve Cram. The positions last night were identical in the 800 metres, though this time there was not much daylight between the pair.

All the running was really saved for the last 300 metres. Eugene Sanders took the field through the first lap in 53.52sec with Coe in third, 54.00sec. Coe was in a position where he was turned into the second lap and almost caused Coe to trip his stride.

Cram, meanwhile, stayed out of any sort of trouble and, in fact, appeared to be just a shade off the pace as they started to motor into the back straight. Coe was the first to make a break, knowing that it would be a long race, but it was not until the crown of the bends that Cram drew along side him.

From there on in it was a gutsy battle worthy of all the sponsorship money and new TV contracts which have elevated the sport to a new level. Midway through the home straight, the tempo rising all the time, Coe seemed to open out a gap and that was sufficient to get him home.

Cram took it easy on the first lap, it takes a race or two to get into things at this stage of the season. Coe replied: "Neither of us came here to finish with a medal. I think this sort of competition is really good for British athletics. It's all about competition rather than records and medals."

A slow first 1,000 metres spoiled any chance she may have had of beating Miss Murray, but she made a bold break 700 metres from home to pull away from an under-used Scot, Andrea Everitt. Miss Lynch hopes to be paced below nine minutes in Monday's race, but first she will contend the 1,500 metres today.

Cameron Sharp, the former European silver medal holder, won his 200 metres heat comfortably but then complained of illness and withdrew from the final.

The funding of Britain's bid, whichever city it may be, "is so-called private enterprise contributions and the Sports Council help, we may not get it," he said.

It looks suspiciously as though Birmingham will make its withdrawal a political one on the rate-capping question. Next Monday the controlling Labour group is expected to confirm the bid to the Government but the Government is asked for a rate subsidy to take the project to the International Olympic Committee, a request which will almost certainly be rejected in Whitehall.

The Birmingham bid is imaginative and original in one aspect. In that nine of the sports would be housed within the National Exhibition Centre complex, which is to have the addition of a superbowl stadium for athletics, costing £105 million, and a £53 million Olympic village to house 14,000 competitors.

Birmingham has budgeted to spend £545 million with TV, coin and lottery programmes, plus ticket sales, bringing an estimated profit of £100 million.

If the Birmingham bid does proceed, the BOA are likely to see its greatest weakness as a lack of suitable hotel accommodation within easy reach of the city. There are only 52,000 hotel beds and these are within an area which embraces Birmingham, Coventry and Stratford-upon-Avon.

Scotland, struggling to get back into the top echelon, defeated France 1-0 in the first of their three Test series at Kilmarnock, Glasgow, yesterday.

The winners of the series, will hope to qualify for the World Cup at Wembley next year but after this weekend will still have two more qualifying events — both in Spain — to survive.

Yesterday's clash of Europe's sixth and seventh rank teams was something of a farce in the first half, with the pitch saturated and heavy rain falling. The French were hurriedly fed by the conditions but adapted better on the artificial pitch at first, accepting that progress along the ground was virtually impossible.

Scotland, with everyone playing their part, also gave the half plenty of air and had established a slight edge by the interval.

The game improved when

Peter Roebuck, back with Somerset after an enforced spell as cricket viewer and listener, describes the experience

BBC coverage still in age of the tram

INJURY AND illness have forced me for the past month to contemplate our cricket from the sanctuary of a sitting-room, listening to the radio and watching the moving picture in the corner. After a winter in Australia, where sport dominates the screen as cereals dominate the breakfast table, it has been an education.

As presented by the BBC, cricket has not responded to the challenge of Australian ideas. It has not been ripped from lethargy to excitement. The 1977 rebellion, led by irreverent and hard-up West Indians, denied the game its pose as something conducted on a higher plane than the rest of life.

Cricket is not special: it is battling for survival in a marketplace of ambitious sports ranging from mountaineering to snooker, yet on the ABC it is treated with the respectful consideration an expert has for an antique.

In Australia, Channel 9 shows

every ball of a Test match from behind the bowler's arm and endeavours to capture the half-interest with gimmicks like a Catch of the Season contest, huge screens replay incidents, and a host of commentators try to persuade their audience that everything is tense.

Sometimes they verge on hysteria, having out their superlatives, but at least they try to embrace the uncommitted viewers. Channel 9 caters for a mass audience, whereas the BBC contemplates only the connoisseur.

We present our game with unblinking solemnity as if it were a modern ballet or an opera by Herr Wagner. Jim Laker, in his lugubrious way, is a fellow for funerals rather than festivities. He is an old pro and old pros know all this jumping about is nonsense. His observations are those of a kindly old uncle hailing a child to sleep.

Bob Willis and Raymond Illingworth are wise — pretty soon

the word Illingworth will have its own meaning, somewhere between Canny and Glib — but they are dragged towards dullness by the rigidity of production which prevents them from being as humorous as Jimmy Greaves or as provocative as Tony Greig.

Only the panned comments from Richie Benaud — "how do you spell kamikaze?" — indicate that the BBC has realised the need to trap the reluctant viewer. He, at least, does not take the game as if it were a sentence by Jane Austen. But then Mr Benaud is used to the ways of Channel 9. Mr Packer's channel, where Australian sauce has replaced English prudery.

Things are not much better on the radio. At the risk of offending an institution, I must say I prefer the practical observations of the ABC to the use of exotic ones on Radio 3. In Australia they use young, professional broadcasters and add them to the bubbling personal-

ity of Max Walker. They concentrate more upon the cricket, less upon the eccentricities of their own characters. On Radio 3 it sometimes appears that the "box" is too interested in its own soap opera, besides which the Australians are more sympathetic to the cricketers in the middle, realising their fragility.

It's a pity the BBC present cricket in so stodge a manner. Our authorities are trying to revitalise the game so that it is no longer as dated as a tram; our grounds are no longer hotbeds of support but assumption that spectators are trespassers at some religious ritual.

We've abandoned the pork pies and powdered milk of the past, and at some grounds it is even recognised that supporters might from time to time care to relieve themselves. Although many people are still not seated in comfort nor made to feel wanted, we do not insult our audience any more.

GOLF

David Davies in Dublin

Seve can swallow Swede

OVE SEELBERG leads, precariously, the Carrolls Irish Open after two rounds of wind and rain and general torment at the Royal Dublin Golf Club. Seve, a Swede, has a four-under par total of 138, one ahead of Severiano Ballesteros, but even if he did not hear the closing ominous comments of the Spaniard he will know how precarious his position is.

Ballesteros, trying to console himself after taking a triple-bogey seven at the last hole, said: "Never mind. I played almost perfect golf. I can certainly shoot 65 tomorrow."

If he does that it is safe to say that he will be the third-round leader and in position to take his second Carrolls title in three years. Seelberg, meanwhile, is seeking to become the first of his countrymen to win in Europe, and frankly admits that if he does so in the immediate future it will be through fortune rather than skill.

"It will be another two years before Swedes are in with a real chance of winning," he said. "If any of us were to do so at the moment it would be lucky."

There are four Swedes on the European tour currently sponsored by the Saab Motor Company, plus one freelance, and it is coincidental that last year another of the team, Magnus Persson, led this event for the first two rounds, inspiring confidence about singular first Person victories.

Ballesteros, having played his near-perfect 17 holes, made a botch of the 18th. He hit a three wood too far to the left, leaving him with a four-wood second instead



PARKIN PENALTY: In spite of dropping a shot at the eighth the 23-year-old shot a 68 and lies joint fourth

of the three iron he had hoped for. The shot with a wooden club was risky because it would inevitably fly higher than if struck with an iron, and in a strong left-to-right wind with the dangers were apparent.

Ballesteros duly hit it too high, the ball sailed out, and the Spaniard lost his chance of a dominating two-stroke lead.

Philip Parkin hit a blind chip at the 11th over a bank and then sprinted forward to see the result. The ball passed over the hole, stayed out and stopped two feet away. Parkin clapped a hand to his brow, collapsed to the ground, lay flat on his back and groaned. "Oh, no, oh no," he said.

A passing spectator might not have guessed that all that had happened was that Parkin had to accept a birdie rather than the eagle the

hole-dip chip would have represented. But he might have got the wrong idea, looking at Mark James on a tee close by. James watched the whole performance and stood there shaking his head, but with a broad smile on his face.

Amused resignation is the attitude most of the European tour are adopting in regard to the 23-year-old Parkin, and it suits the man in question fine.

He has an original way with post-round press conferences. Yesterday refusing pointblank to go on to the restaurant, with attendant microphone reserved for the interview. "Let's just have a cosy chat down here," he said, settling into a front-row seat.

CARROLLS IRISH OPEN (Royal Dublin). Second round leaders (68 and Ireland miles). 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Distance should suit stoutly bred Beldale Star

ASCOT (BECI)
2.0 (67): BELDALE STAR showed promise for a stoutly bred colt — he is by Beldale Flutterm — when half a length second to Stalker over five furlongs. This trip is sure to suit him better and with Guy Harwood's juveniles running well at present he should be thereabouts. Water Cay looks bound to start at Doncaster, while Meet The Greek has some good form.

2.30 (2m): BOCODA LAD is not badly treated, having beaten In The Shade just over two and a half lengths at Newmarket last time. He meets that rival on 11th best terms here. Rikki Tavi had Snipe Preview behind when runner-up to Beldale Champ at Warwick. Morgans Choice is a good stayer but his winning form is on fast ground.

Chris Hawkins on the TV races
In the soft and kept on gamely to beat La Tuerta at Sandown last week.
AYR ITV
1.30 (1m 5f): MATHMAN gave The Clown a bit and best him by three lengths at Newbury last time and would appear to have the measure of Dozario on that running. Dozario beat The Clown by a length at levels over today's course and distance last month.
2.0 (11m): BEAU DIAMOND has been running

well and went down by only a length to Fordard at York last week, having previously finished fourth to Indian Hal at Salisbury.
2.30 (1m): PERKINS is used to shouldering big weights and put up a good performance under 9st 10lb when fourth to Young Knight at Thirsk. All Fair has a chance on his fifth to Fordard at York.
REDCAR (ITV)
1.45 (1m): WARPLANE has the invaluable assistance of Klahr in the lady rider event and should run well.

2.15 (6f): MIHAARB ran in hot company when sixth to Sore Blade, who went on to win the Coventry Stakes, at Newmarket last month.
This formidable colt looks good here, although Deadbolt, fourth to Walk On Ice at Leicester, will have his supporters.
2.45 (6f): TANFEN is useful over six furlongs on fast ground and was a respectable third to the prolific Chaplins Club at Hamilton over five furlongs last week. Camps Heath was caught close home by Our Dynasty at Epsom and looks nicely weighted.

ASCOT HEATH

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 2.00 Beldale Star | 3.35 Skaramanga |
| 2.30 Bocoda Lad | 4.10 Muskigue-Classique |
| 3.00 Petrovich | 4.40 Sticky Grease |

ASCOT AND PLACETOWN ALL SIX RACES
DRAWN BY TELEVISION
* DENOTES BLINDERS, GOING: Good

BECI-1
2.0-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-122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With inflation rising again, CHRISTOPHER HUHNE expects hard thinking at the Chequers ministerial meeting this weekend

Just a blip or a self-perpetuating increase?

FOR FOUR YEARS, through all the vicissitudes of a sluggish economy, which has stubbornly failed to deliver falling unemployment, the Government has at least been able to cling to one success. The rate at which prices were rising declined from its peak of 21.9 per cent in April 1980 to 3.7 per cent at the time of the last election.

From this, Mrs Thatcher's most signal triumph, much else was held to follow. Lower inflation, it was said, would spur growth and jobs. It would reduce distortions in the economy, allowing businessmen to allocate resources more efficiently and productively. It would lay the foundations for the

Prime Minister's two-term cure for Britain's economic ills.

None of those hopes are now in prospect. Since the election, the inflation rate has gradually edged upwards, hovering on either side of 5 per cent until the end of last year. Then the spurt began. From a rate of 4.6 per cent last December, the rise in retail prices reached 7 per cent in May and is almost certain to go higher in June and July.

Mrs Thatcher's battle against inflation has never quite gone according to plan. In theory, the control of the money supply was meant to bring down inflation with minimal costs to the economy. The reality was differ-

ent. The Government's chosen measure of the money supply, shot wildly out of control in 1980, yet inflation persisted to come down from that point onwards for the most part. High interest rates pushed the pound up, and out import prices. The squeeze on profits forced a massive slump. Unemployment began to scare workers into lower earnings rises.

This deflation of demand did not just snuff short-term economic costs: our manufacturing sector is still producing 10 per cent less than it did at the peak of 1979, largely because the strength of sterling, combined with persistently high domestic costs, has priced it out of home and world markets. It was to

remedy this, independent of loss of competitiveness that the Government gradually allowed the pound to slide from the beginning of 1981.

But that, of course, began to put one of the main mechanisms by which inflation had been brought down gradually into reverse. For three years, the Government pulled off the balancing act of declining inflation and a declining pound because importers cut their profit margins and world commodity prices remained very depressed. At the same time, businesses were able to absorb quite high pay rises because of sharp rises in output per person.

Last year, the balancing act began to crumble. The

markets seemed they were on to a one way bet with steadily declining sterling, and the result was the sharp drop in interest rates to defend the currency. Meanwhile the productivity miracle vanished, so that unit wage costs began to reflect much more fully the steady rise in earnings.

True, two factors dominate the recent sharp rise in inflation from 5 per cent to 7 per cent, and both either have been or are likely to be reversed. About half of the rise is due to higher mortgage rates rising in line with other interest rates to defend the pound. Another part is the delayed effect of falling sterling at the end of last year which has already

recouped some of its losses. Nevertheless, the "blip" as ministers call it, is about one per cent more than the Treasury's expectation of 6 per cent at the time of the budget, and is not that easy to reverse.

The trend of pay settlements has been gently rising through last year, and that is bound to squeeze company margins or lead to price rises at a time when output per person is flat. What is more, there is a danger that the blip in inflation itself could begin to feed into higher earnings rises, and become self-perpetuating.

The sad truth is that this Government has no more been able to reconcile higher growth and jobs with stable prices than its predecessors.

Monetarism was no miracle cure, and the options which increasingly face the Chancellor are between renewed deflation at the cost of still higher unemployment, or a revamped prices and incomes policy of the sort which Thatcherites abhor.

Nor is the Chancellor likely to be able to rely on large tax cuts to sweeten his failure to resolve Britain's central economic dilemma. One side effect of the rise in inflation has been to raise public spending on benefits, pay and goods and services. At the same time, the fall in dollar oil prices and the rise in the pound against the dollar has cut another £2 billion of the Chancellor's room for tax cuts.

DIARY

THE network of Government press officers has recently come under scrutiny and has been found wanting. An internal report has found that "there are many people in the Government Information Service with very limited and specialised degree of skill, little management ability, who cannot easily be moved, eventually become disillusioned and embittered, and end up as intractable management problems."

The report by a working group from the Civil Service, headed by a Mr A. J. Brooks, finds that the information service "is unique, in that it neither demands academic nor professional qualifications, nor provides adequate planned training and career development for its members... its prestige is low... it is under attack for lack of professionalism; it is accused of low administrative ability... it seems to be singularly unable to deploy its considerable range of communication skills to bring itself together."

The report may be an attempt to pre-empt outside criticism from Ministers or even Mr. Bernard Ingham, the PM's press man, who appears to have tighter controls over the labyrinth of Whitehall "information" officers.

A RECEPTION at the Carlton Club the other day in honour of the former Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Aristides Calvo, 65, a bit of an Anglophile. In waders the Earl of Stockton, 91, whose habit it is to stay at the club during his weekly sojourns in London. The two eminent men are introduced and while away half an hour or so discussing the state of the world. In French.

TURN to the back of this week's Times Educational Supplement and you will find a large advert for a Spanish teacher on the Falkland Islands, placed by the Overseas Development Administration.

Teaching of Spanish as a second language was discontinued after the 1982 conflict. The advertisement says it is being reintroduced to "inspire the local school-going population" — a decision taken by the Falkland Islands Government. The salary of about £5,000 paid by the ODA is topped up by the ODA.

DEFENCE committees are all the rage. The latest is the Defence Committee, which is to be set up by the House of Commons. The committee will be made up of 15 members, including the Secretary of State for Defence, the Chief of the Defence Staff, and 13 other members. The committee will be responsible for overseeing the defence budget and for recommending to the House of Commons the amount of money to be allocated to the defence.

THE British Library is due to decide next week whether or not to purchase the catalogue, which currently lists some 10 million volumes. If so the contract is likely to go to Carrollton press, a UK subsidiary of International Thomson, which has undertaken a four-month trial. Union sources claim that Carrollton did not perform impressively during this trial, cataloguing Hungarian books as "Turkish" making mistakes with Greek and Hebrew entries and getting one in 34 shelf marks wrong — a rate of progress, say the unions, which would render nearly 300,000 volumes difficult or impossible to retrieve. Spokesmen for Carrollton and the BL declined to comment.

RED KEN'S attendance at the Pritchard's lunch on Wednesday was simply explained. It was not a Pritchard's lunch, though Pritchard's did their best to squeeze publicity out of their part in the event, but a GIC lunch. End of mystery.

OL' Blue Eyes can't see the funny side. The cricket crooner is taking action against Gary Trudeau, creator of Doonesbury for his recent week of strips concerning Mr. Sinistra's love of gambling and his lowlife companions.

Lawyers acting for Mr. Sinistra and Dean Martin were alleged to have intimidated a dealer in Atlantic City into dealing from a hand rather than New Jersey plastic law requires. His lawyers claim the strip was "false and violent" of Mr. Sinistra's rights. Universal Press Syndicate insists it was "fair satire."

Alan Rusbridger



Life in New York with bleak prospects: unemployed in Harlem. Picture by Neil Libbert

W. J. WEATHERBY in New York on what happens when homicide comes in off the street

It's sheer murder in Manhattan

LIVING with a murder might seem to be a common New York experience. Several murders a day take place somewhere in the city. But until now I have only heard about other people's murders or at the most gone to the scene of a murder as a reporter.

Usually a gun or a knife is the murder weapon in New York and it is used in anger or in fear of an impulse, often fuelled by liquor or drugs or jealousy. Killings seldom have the significance or premeditation of murders in fiction.

The first sign of our murder was the presence of a police sergeant in the elevator of the hotel where I live. That is not necessarily unusual. Although the hotel is in fashionable midtown, with chic Studio 54 down the block and Yul Brynner in the King and I in the next block, it is old and attracts a hard-boiled clientele because its rates are lower than any other midtown hotel or apartment building. Several times late at night a couple of policemen have knocked at my door asking if I was the one who phoned for help. When I said I wasn't, they went on to try the next room.

The regulars vary from old women and old men who sit gossiping in a snackbar across Broadway about the latest happenings and at the hotel to groups of young, French-speaking Africans who sell in the streets (sunglasses on fine days, umbrellas when it is raining). Occa-

sionally you feel one being taken away by handcuffs by immigration agents for overstaying his legal time. One month, apparently, so many had to be sent back to Africa that the immigration budget was overran.

They live several to a room and have so many TVs, radios, record players, hot plates and heating gadgets that the electricity system is overloaded and the lights sometimes go out several times an evening. You have to go up to the next floor to turn them back on. Everybody sits in the darkness waiting for someone else to do it. I have learned to be patient because after two trips upstairs, they start to do something about what is causing it.

But I feel safe being an African here. They keep to themselves because they speak so little English and they are preoccupied with making money off the Americans. At one time we had a rash of robberies and after one African room was broken into, all the Africans put new locks on their doors. Half the screws were taken off my lock and a little eagle bore in my door. The thief must have been disturbed in the middle of his attempt, but after that, I got a new lock too.

When I first moved in, I nearly moved out next day. My second-floor room overlooks a courtyard where people on higher floors throw some of their garbage. What sounded like a stone statue once shattered outside, smashing part of my window.

The largest rat I have ever seen — because it was standing on its hind legs — came in, but at my shocked cry promptly went out again. When I reported this to the clerk downstairs, a young Indian with a bit-and-miss knowledge of English, he gave a jolly laugh and said, "Rat in room!" as if I were enjoying a privilege few guests had.

It was some time before I was able to convince the manager he had a rat problem. I used to hear them in the corridor outside and the musician next door who came home late from concerts always used to whistle loudly to warn them he was coming. Eventually the manager admitted he had put down some poison in the basement and found a hundred bodies. So whenever I heard any gnawing sounds in the walls, I would put down more poison and eventually I heard them no more. I was always on the point of leaving, but it was a convenient place to live for a journalist and the decline of the pound against the dollar meant that English exiles had to accept some decline in their living standards.

But of course rats, robberies and even murder are not necessarily a sign of social decline in New York. I once sat in the lounge of one of the most famous Manhattan hotels and saw either a rat or a large mouse saunter under a couch. When I told the waiter, he said quite casually, as if it was of no importance, "Oh, it must

have come in from the kitchen." Certainly some of the most luxurious hotels have had both spectacular robberies and murders. After seeing the police sergeant in the elevator, I noticed a couple of police cars outside, but again didn't give it much importance until I went over the local snackbar and the waiter asked what I thought of the murder. She explained that an 85-year-old woman who lived on the seventh floor had been found murdered in her room. She was a regular in the snackbar. I didn't know any of the older women regulars, but I hoped it wasn't an old Irish woman who was crippled with arthritis and walked with two sticks but was always very cheerful in public. The waitress's description could have fitted any of them.

The murder was a hot topic for days. The old people discussed it endlessly over coffee, sipping each other so much they didn't want to go back to their rooms. The old woman had been "strangled." Another woman whispered across the counter she had heard the old woman had been "raped." They all kept saying "Isn't it terrible!" with great gusto. One of the old men said he was going to move out, but he didn't sound too serious. He had already been in the hotel about twenty years.

The next time I saw the manager, who worked in a back office and was rarely available, I mentioned the murder. He said that he was down in his face and getting

any information was like pulling teeth. I asked if he thought it was done by the same person who had robbed people's rooms. "No," he said with satisfaction, "the robberies have stopped."

When I returned to my room, there was a knock at the door. One learns not to open immediately, but to inquire first who it is. It was the police — a smiling man and woman in plainclothes, each with pad and pencil. They asked if I knew about the murder. Did I know the victim? I said I had probably seen her in the snackbar. How long had I lived in the hotel? What was the date of my birth? And that was it.

I mentioned the police visit to the manager. He seemed more optimistic and forthcoming. "Yes," he said, "the police are making inquiries, but they think they know who did it."

A man I had got to know when a leaking pipe in his bathroom above flooded my bathroom told me in the elevator he had five locks on his door. He advised me to have the same protection. "They won't get me," he said.

I tried to mention the murder to one of the Africans to whom I had given an English dictionary. But either he didn't understand or considered it a strictly American concern. He wanted to know instead if I would like to inspect some African sculpture that had been imported for sale. The hotel lobby was full of huge primitive statues and they were so heavy they stopped the an-

cient elevator. Then it began to rain so the Africans left the statues in the corridor and rushed out to seek umbrellas. It was too good an opportunity to miss that night there was a knock at the door, and when I asked who it was, a woman's voice said: "Five dollars." She had come to the wrong room. She wanted the Africans.

Already the hotel seems to have absorbed the murder into what must now be an extraordinary history of big city transient life, full of ghosts like the hotel in the Shining. A big man about six feet with broad shoulders and a loaded stick is now on duty in the lobby as a security guard. The gossip in the snackbar is that he has already had to deal with a woman who furiously attacked him.

There are any number of New York's walking wounded in the hotel — breakdown cases on thorensone or similar drugs — and they stand patiently in the lobby or on the sidewalk outside, where their rooms become unbearable, as if they are waiting for Godot. The snackbar gossip wondered if one of them could have done it. But they are victims, too, of this aggressive, competitive, vital and violent city where people come to make it and murder is accepted as an everyday part of life.

At least it wasn't the old Irishwoman. She was in the snackbar next time I went there. "Did you hear about the woman who won the lottery?" she asked cheerfully. Life at the hotel had moved on.

MICHAEL PARKIN on a testing time for Bradford's ethnic education policies

Head strong

MR RAY Honeyford, controversial head teacher of Drummond Middle School in Bradford, today submits his views on multi-ethnic education to examination by the school's governors in Lille. The governors will investigate the dispute between Mr Honeyford and Bradford Council over his thinking on race relations in schools which led to his suspension after a vote of no confidence in him by the education committee.

Some of his opinions, given in an article for the rightwing Salisbury Review, were published on the Agenda Page yesterday.

In a later article he wrote for the Review, he was even more explicit. At no point in all this sound and fury about multi-ethnic education — does the plight of those white children who constitute an ethnic minority in a growing number of city schools raise a mention. Yet their educational disadvantage is now confirmed.

"It is more than common-sense that if a school contains a disproportionate number of children for whom English is a second language (true of all Asian children, even those born here) or children from homes where educational ambition or values to support it are conspicuously absent (that is, the vast majority of West Indian homes, a disproportionate number of which are fatherless), then high standards are bound to suffer."

Bradford Council's educational advisers visited Mr Honeyford's school last year. About 90 per cent of pupils were of Asian or West Indian origin, most of them British-born. Most of them were white children, as a group, were not under-achieving because they were in a multi-ethnic school, an impression supported by evidence from similar Bradford schools. But the subject would need long and detailed investigation.

The council's District Trends, a briefing published last year, said that if staff are to work effectively with black children, they must make a permanent part of the education fabric.

"If staff do not support it, then it will go badly wrong," District Trends said.

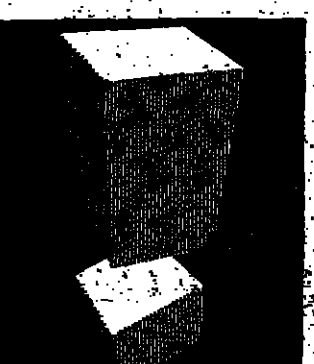
Bradford used to bus black children from the inner city to outlying schools to assimilate them. That has all changed. Education policy has shifted from assimilation to the policy of "parity of esteem" for black children, mutual respect for different cultures, and the rise of a multi-cultural society, able to accept and even welcome differences. The first moves have been made towards the teaching of some subjects in pupils' mother tongues.

District Trends said that the bussing of black children effectively meant having a black minority in schools. The clear assumption was that black children, on meeting many white children, would integrate more quickly.

It was interesting that the bussed black minorities in schools were seen as a benefit, but the white minorities of today were now seen as a major issue of concern. What would the reaction have been, District Trends wondered if anyone had suggested bussing pupils from the white suburbs into schools at Manningham, mainly Asian, inner city, area?

District Trends did not duck the issue of black pupils consistently doing worse in examinations. These are not seen, nowadays, as the only measure of success but they do rate highly with parents. It asked whether the council really understood the causes of low attainment.

For its part, the council is trying to avoid a distorted view of the world which assumes that white culture is superior, in a declaration of its policies, the council says: "If schools get race relations wrong, almost nothing in later life will get them right."



ENDPIECE

Roy Hattersley

UNTIL last Saturday, I was gradually coming to the gloomy conclusion that the Bats and Paper view of cricket was not so much unbalanced as downright wrong. In my paper view, the Bats and Paper view was completely different from mine. I was of the opinion that the Bats and Paper view was completely different from mine.

I despised contempt for quiet thought and solitary meditation. I never regarded martial success as the real measure of a country's greatness. But the Corinthian notion of cricket appealed to me.

For 40 years I wanted to believe that cricketers were gentlemen even when they were players and that cricket spectators are contemplative aesthetes. I regarded the game as a test of nerve, character, will and intellect. Cricket's rogues I assumed to be in the Raffles tradition: high class criminals who qualify for society's forgiveness because of the elegance of their modus operandi and the subtlety of their googlies and legbreaks.

I liked to think of batsmen who played-up and played-down the game despite the bumping pitch and blinding light and I had no doubt that J. W. H. T. Douglas rushed to the rescue of his father when the cruise liner on which they were travelling caught fire simply because in his childhood he had been taught to get his body behind the ball no matter how fast the bowling or how malicious the bowler.

"Cricket," somebody wrote on the fly-leaf of a book called Bats and Balls "is a

game least spoilt by any form of vice." The text was decorated with quotation marks. I never knew who the author was. But I agreed with him. The idea that it might be a woman was beyond my comprehension.

Over the years the romantic notions about the noblest game became increasingly difficult to sustain. As the betting tents were pitched on county grounds all over England, batsmen argued with umpires about slip, catches and stumpings and raucous choruses of Never Walk Alone accompanied the run stealers flickering to and fro, the Arcadian dream began to fade.

I had little doubt that the Victorians with their billowing cream silk shirts and fastidious formal sportsmanship were just as bad in their surreptitious ways. But the Victorians pursued their vices quietly. They gambled privately with each other, drank in the respectability of their clubs and had the good sense to cheat secretly. The knowing secrecy to be an essential attribute of successful cheating. There was nothing admirable about their attitudes. But their passion for respectability did contribute to the superficial serenity of cricket.

Sitting last Saturday in the grandstand at Headingley, the idea that watching cricket was once a serene sporting pastime was difficult to remember.

In front of me, a young lady with red, white and blue hair strutted her stuff to the delight of the neighbouring spectators. During the tea interval, a couple wearing solar-toppers and bush-jackets marched past and saluted each of the tattered union flags that the patriotic school boys waved at them. As the day wore on, an alcoholic shouter came up like thunder out of ten thousand partisan throats. Stewards in day-glow waistcoats cleared beer cans from the edge of the boundary.

The first streaker wore a sed-through Red Ensign. As he ran across the pitch, he billowed out behind him like the wings of an exotic butterfly. The police caught him between square leg and mid on, arranged him in the flag like a dead hen and dragged him out of the ground. The second streaker was barely a streaker at all. Having theatrically removed his top coat in a tantalising routine, which would have done credit to Gypsy Rose Lee, he was revealed to be still wearing his underpants.

Thus clad he sprinted in a line that ran through cover point and mid wicket, moving at a speed that the more heavily clad police could not match and disappeared into what used to be in less eventful days — to be called the Bowling Green Stand.

The fighting broke out at about five o'clock. There were only three or four scuffles and none of them looked dangerously violent. Half-hearted blows were struck in the general direction of opponents prompting one of the most strange — yet familiar — features of crowd behaviour.

Several thousand men and women, who had paid £12 to watch a top class cricket match, abandoned all interest in the game and turned their entire attention to an outbreak of third rate hooliganism. The necks collectively craned in the direction of the desultory fistfights. The police walked stolidly into the crowd and did what their notebooks no doubt called "effective arrests." Embarrassed hooligans were frog-marched from the ground, followed by friends carrying the plastic bags in which the offenders had brought their sandwiches and transistor radios.

The biggest and most vio-

Banks will continue to go bust—the need is to spot it happening earlier



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

BANKS go under all the time, just like any other form of commercial or industrial enterprise. Why was Johnson Matthey so special? Indeed, why are banks so special?

The second question first: every year several US banks fail and have to be rescued. Here we had a year or two back some of the Man banks folding. It is little more than

10 years since the fringe bank crisis when a whole string of banks collapsed. The same happens in every country, and it happens all the time.

But every now and again a big one comes along, when the difficulties of one bank threaten to submerge the whole banking system. That happened in 1980 in Argentina and in 1930 in Austria, Germany and the United States. Arguably it could have occurred last year in the US, when Continental Illinois had to be rescued. And, as the Bank of England openly admits, it nearly happened last October with Johnson Matthey.

Banks, it should be made clear, are different from other commercial companies in the sense that the difficulties of one can spread to others. No bank can ever repay the money that depositors have put in it, were every depositor to ask for their money back at the same time.

Banks make their money

by performing a conjuring trick: they take in money with the promise to pay it back in quite a short time, on demand on a current account, at some date in the near future on fixed-term deposits. But they lend it for periods of up to several years.

This conjuring trick can go terribly wrong if a bank is hit by a rumour, whether substantiated or not, that it is about to go bust. And the money markets being what they are, news that one bank is in difficulty can spread quite unfairly — to others that are not.

So banks are in a special position which other commercial enterprises are not. They therefore have, implicitly or explicitly, a special level of protection by the monetary authorities.

In return for that protection they must be much closer scrutiny than most commercial firms. A manufacturer has to produce products which conform to government regulations, but its

own books are not subject to public scrutiny. In every country there is some form of official regulation which orders banking. The official regulation can be carried out by a government department, by a special supervisory agency, or by a central bank.

In Britain, until 1979, responsibility was split between the Department of Trade (which covered small banks) and the Bank of England (which in practice, though not really on much of a legal basis, covered the big ones). The 1979 Banking Act, however, put the legal onus firmly on the Bank for all types of banking institution.

Now Johnson Matthey Bankers was itself a tiny bank by London standards. A loan book of some £400 million may sound a lot, but by banking standards it is fourth division and near the bottom at that.

But by a series of unusual circumstances this tiny bank threatened the whole system.

First, though it was owned by a sizeable public company engaged in refining and trading metals, it was also involved in the gold market. If one of the five members of the gold market had gone under, that could have brought down the rest. And one of the other members was Samuel Montagu, itself 60 per cent owned by Midland.

Midland was in deep trouble with its losses at Crockers, its American subsidiary, and the fear of the Bank of England was that if JMB had gone, the shock wave would have caused a run on Midland. The Bank felt it could not take that risk.

In ordinary circumstances the parent company of the bank would have supported it. But, incredibly, the bank had managed to make so many bad loans that the losses amounted to some two thirds of its loan book. This must go down in the Guinness Book of Records as proportionately the largest

losses ever sustained in banking history. Anyway, it was too much for the immediate parent, Johnson Matthey itself, though, it is open to argument whether the principal shareholder of Johnson Matthey, Charter Consolidated, should have been required to support its affiliates to a greater extent.

But it all this explains why the authorities felt that a rescue had to take place, it does not explain why the regulatory system did not pick up the problem in the course of its normal reports and act in a measured manner.

There are three points that should be made here, for we can now see that there was a failure at three levels.

The first is that the system itself was (and is) deficient. It classifies banks into two categories, full banks and licensed deposit takers. Banks were subjected to a lower degree of scrutiny, and a higher degree of trust, than deposit takers. Yet it was a full bank which made

such a hash of things. That distinction ends, and the higher level of scrutiny will apply to all.

There are other changes proposed to the system of supervision, but a system is only as good as the people who run it.

The second level of failure was by the Bank of England, which, on the basis of the present system, its employees ought to have picked up the fact there was a serious problem. To take just one example, a return by JMB, due in the middle of April last year, was not received until June, and a meeting on it not fixed until August.

The third level of failure was in the quality of JMB's returns and general accounting standards. Should the auditors have spotted this? As announced yesterday, the bank is suing the JMB auditors, Arthur Young, so this aspect of the matter is now before the courts.

So the failure was largely, one of banking regulation, the blame for which must

fall squarely on the Bank of England. Its having committed these errors, you can argue quite convincingly that the decision to rescue was in fact the right one. But the actual mechanism of the rescue was extremely rough and ready, as it probably had to be for it was concocted in less than 48 hours.

The story is by no means finished. When the Bank of England sells JMB it may be able to do so at a price which greatly reduces the cost to the taxpayers and the cost to the carrying out of the rescue. It is conceivable that it could even make a profit. Banking supervision will, of course, be improved, now. The row between the Bank and the Treasury will simmer down. But in the end, the whole worry remains: the whole worry banking the system ought not to be so fragile that the collapse of one tiny bank can threaten to pull it down. That reality, alas, remains.

Hamish McRae

Shareholders wooed with forecast of 47 pc pre-tax rise

Counter-attack from Debenhams

By Margaret Pagano, City Correspondent

Debenhams launched a sappy, hard-hitting counter-attack against Burton's £470 million bid yesterday, but predictably kept any plans for potential rival consortium bids or white knights firmly under wraps.

But Debenhams' boss, Mr Bob Thornton, did admit that breakfast talks had been held with yet another interested party in this lively bid scene. Mr George Davies, head of the Next chain of fashion shops. He was not at liberty to divulge what plans either may have for the other, but said he was listening to everything.

"We want to stay independent," Shareholders can be assured that no deals will be done in secret. I will only look

at any attempts at a reconstruction of the group if Burton increases its bid. And then I will make shareholders' interests to heart," he said.

Other parties eager to be in on the killing are House of Fraser, with its 8 per cent stake, Harris Queensway, Mr Gerald Roosen of Harrods, and the Standard Chartered bank, which is extremely keen to buy the Welbeck credit group.

Shareholders are being wooed with a forecast of pre-tax profits up by 47 per cent to around £60 million, a place between £30 million last time. About 80 per cent of the profits are from retailing activities, with about a third coming from Welbeck, which last year contributed about £20 million.

Mr Thornton promised the dividend would be 41 per cent higher at 12p for the year and

earnings per share are forecast at 33.4p. So far the first 16 weeks of this year show a sales increase of 11 per cent and profit before tax up 156 per cent at £8.4 million.

At 385p yesterday Debenhams' shares continue to ride strongly ahead of Burton's bid terms of shares and cash. Burton's 33.1p share, showing the market is still convinced that Burton is not going to win at this price.

Mr Thornton was again fiercely critical of the combined Burton-Habib Al-Balochi bid, which aims to transform the 67 stores into miniature shopping malls. "We have been vague promises about a practical design concepts which may cost hundreds of millions of pounds with no indication of the impact on profit." Independent advisers have pro-

duced estimates, he said, that the Galleria concept would cost some £400 million and involve closing the stores for at least nine months.

Burton's — chaired by Mr Ralph Halpern — hit back at the defence arguing that it had still not convinced them that the group had not abandoned its role as retailer. It challenged Debenhams' claim that 80 per cent of profit would be made from retailing, and the estimates of funding the Galleria projects. Burton will shortly produce its own estimates for converting selected stores.

Mr Thornton admitted the defence held back on some future ammunition including a property revaluation which could show a reversal. "With such a weak bid we feel this document is very adequate as a rebuttal."



Bob Thornton and Ralph Halpern

Unisat may sue over satellite pull-out

By Maggie Brown

The consortium which has just killed off as "obsolete" the ambitious £500 million direct broadcasting satellite system proposed for UK television viewers by 1990, now faces the threat of legal action to recover development costs from Unisat, the GEC, British Aerospace and British Telecom grouping, which has carried out two years of development work on the project.

Consortium members, led by the BBC and the Independent Television Contractor's Association (ITCA) acknowledge that the situation is "highly delicate." ITCA denies any liability. Any claim for compensation, key officials say, resides in a 1983 heads of agreement document signed by the BBC with Unisat.

But the view is that Unisat is likely to tread carefully, possibly seeking a negotiated settlement without openly embarrassing the government, which is now expected to come under renewed pressure to allow broadcasters the choice to buy foreign-made satellites, offering cheaper rentals.

Unisat's development costs

are not known. Up to £50 million could be at stake, but industry sources put development spending at £10-20 million. GEC's Marconi research base has a team of 25 people who are estimated to have spent "several million pounds." Unisat's director, Daniel Ganeberg, would not comment on any legal moves.

ITCA, in its first formal explanation of the two-year project's collapse, said yesterday that its decision to withdraw was prompted by the establishment of the Peace Committee of Inquiry into the BBC, which will examine the question of its accepting advertising. This could cream off income from commercial television and radio.

David Shaw, ITCA's director, said: "We may not know the answer for two years: how could we go into a project when the very funding of our broadcasting industry is uncertain." Another factor known to have influenced the decision was the BBC's recent decision by government to license low-power SMATV satellite broadcasting services, allowing programmes beamed to communal mast to be distributed to pay-television viewers via cable systems. About 750,000 homes are wired up this way.

Private power planned

From Bob Rodwell in Belfast

A private enterprise power station costing up to £500 million may be built in Northern Ireland to exploit its huge recently discovered lignite — brown coal — deposits, and to sell power to the state-owned provincial grid.

Authoritative sources in Belfast yesterday confirmed that exploratory talks were taking place between the Northern Ireland Office and a number of British and foreign firms which have expressed an interest in financing Ulster's next power station. This is needed to replace the existing Belfast Western power plants by the mid-1990s.

Stormont's Department of Economic Development would not comment yesterday beyond recalling that the Minister of State, Dr Rhodes Boyson, who is responsible for energy and industry, has said several times recently that the government is anxious to involve private capital as much as possible in the development of the lignite resources. Approaches from potential investors are understood to have followed his remarks. The lignite field is being opened up by private enterprise — the Sheffield-based Burnet and Hallamshire open-cast mining group.

The Department of Trade and Industry is involved in the early talks. This suggests that approval of a private enterprise power station supplying the state-owned NI Electricity Service is being seen as a possible precursor of a similar relationship between private capital and the national grid in mainland Britain.

A small-scale precedent will soon come into being in Ulster. Du Pont, the multinational chemical plant, has decided to stop buying NIS power and is soon to commission its own coal-lignite fired generating station to supply its big complex near Londonderry.

Asbestos costs cut

By James Erlichman, Chemicals Correspondent

Asbestos victims in the United States may win swifter compensation following a decision by Turner & Newall and some 60 other implicated companies to pool their army of lawyers fighting the disease claims.

The companies, which include asbestos mining corporations and asbestos manufacturers, like Turner & Newall and their insurers, have decided to set up a central legal office in an effort to cut their own soaring litigation costs. But swifter consultation among the defending companies should also reduce the legal costs of genuine asbestos disease victims as well, a Turner & Newall spokesman said yesterday.

Only a small fraction of the £10 million T & N pays out in compensation cases, and there are no similar plans to reduce legal costs in Britain.

Guinness challenge in battle for Bell

By Andrew Cornelius

Mr Ernest Saunders, chief executive of Guinness, which is bidding £230 million for Arthur Bell and Sons, yesterday challenged Mr Ray Miquel, chairman of Bell, to a private meeting on "a man-for-man basis" as the battle between the two sides intensified.

The challenge came as both camps moved to Scotland to woo support from Scottish political and union interests, who have in the past influenced the outcome of bids involving Scottish companies.

On Monday afternoon, Mr Saunders will continue his attempt to persuade Scottish interests that a Guinness bid for Bell would be good news for Scotland, and that it would not involve any redundancies, by meeting Scottish MPs in London.

Mr Miquel continued his blistering attack on the record of Mr Saunders by arguing that the takeover of Bell by Guinness would be "a catastrophe." The Bell chairman said that Mr Saunders had been around long enough to correct his mistakes.

Mr Saunders replied: "I would have thought this was a serious matter and one ought to be adult about this." He said that if Guinness was successful in the takeover bid he believed that he could work with Mr Miquel. Mr Miquel said that if the takeover came about he would probably resign.

This latest row between the two sides follows the complaint made by Bell earlier this week about the role of Morgan Grenfell, advisers to Guinness in the bid, but who acted for Bell until the time of the bid.

Morgan Grenfell has insisted that it has acted properly in the bid and that Bell had said that it wanted to wind down its business connections with the bank.

SE rebels lose out in poll

By Margaret Pagano, City Correspondent

All three rebel brokers failed in their attempt to win seats on the Stock Exchange Council in a record poll of members who appear to have turned against the dissidents who threw out one of the exchange's key reformers.

Even Mr Jeremy Lewis, who was forced to resign by the council because of his objections to the share transfer proposals, was defeated in his move for re-election to the council. In last year's election Mr Lewis, a partner at Seymour, Pearce, came top of the poll with 1,646 votes, beating Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman, into second place. This time he failed by 407 votes.

The other brokers, also representatives of the smaller broking community who failed in the election were Mr Ian Rankine, an associate member of Walker, Crips, Weddell, Beck, and Mr Simon Knott of Greene and Co. Both have been involved with the group of brokers who opposed the share scheme which would have given members the chance to sell shares in the exchange in a free market.

Top of the poll — which attracted 2,727 votes from the 3,882 London members — was Mr John Robertson, senior partner of Bedd, Durlacher, and of the Barclays de Zoete Wedd securities house, one of the 13 council members up for re-election. He gained 1,894 votes.

Sir Nicholas remains adamant that the council will not reconsider the question of giving members compensation for handing over eventual control to outsiders for some time even though another vote now may well draw the necessary 75 per cent majority required. It is more likely the issue will be put on the back burner until after "big bang." In the meantime, however, the council is deciding how best it can bring the new outsider members into the government of the exchange via special policy committees.

Ryman progress

JENNIFER D'ABO, head of the Ryman stationery chain, has won acceptance from 41.3 per cent of Bellco's shareholders for her £14.9 million takeover offer. The bid closes next Friday.

From Michael White in Washington

The wealthy pet food magnate who paid Mr Rupert Murdoch more than \$55 million to buy the Village Voice has pledged himself not to interfere with the magazine's editorial traditions. But the magazine's staff are already predicting trouble from their new owner's outspoken conservative views.

Pointing to Mr Leonard Stern's turbulent business record, which includes battles with trade unions, anti-trust actions which cost him nearly \$100 million in settlements, and perjury and bribery scandals in which he was convicted, company executives went to the press to openly appreciate the fact that the magazine's founder, Clay Felker, said: "He's a tough-minded billionaire who's got his own agenda, but no-

body knows what it is. I can't see him running a hands-off operation."

Similar fears were voiced when Mr Murdoch bought the Voice as part of a \$18 million package which also included New York Magazine in 1977. But to their surprise, staff found that the Australian tycoon honoured his promises. They in turn increased the circulation to 154,000 copies, which together with huge advertising revenues yielded Mr Murdoch an estimated \$5 million a year in gross profits.

The Village Voice has been available for sale for some time because Mr Murdoch reportedly felt it did not "fit" his growing media stable and he had, in any case, in need of money. The Voice's ambition to build a fourth US television network from his recent film studio and TV

station acquisitions. But no serious buyer was prepared to pay what industry analysts felt was too high a price — until Mr Stern.

Mr Stern, 47, is the owner of the Hartz Mountain pet products company as well as a major real estate developer in New York and New Jersey. With a fortune estimated at more than \$550 million he is one of the 400 wealthiest Americans. What he has never been, apart from a brief foray into a Manhattan weekly which he folded less than a month after buying it, is a publisher.

Mr Stern issued a statement saying: "The Village Voice has a tradition of being a major force for expanding liberal causes. Because my goal is to strengthen and nurture that journalistic drive and energy, I plan to operate the Village

Sports gear gets French dressing

By Tony May

NEWS that the natty fashion group French Connection is buying the 103-year-old sportswear firm Buktas created a flurry of concern yesterday.

Would the English rugby team (Jerseys by Buktas) look more like Frankie Goes To Hollywood? Would David Gower (cricket whites by Buktas) set the Aussies surging at his new ensemble, and what about the Cubs, Browns, Scouts and Guides (currently uniformed by Buktas)? Would parents up and down the land have to form "Save the Woggle" committees?

Stephen Marks, chairman, chief executive and designer at French Connection, proved reassuring yesterday. He wants to build on Buktas' business, not supersede it. His group is spending £700,000 buying Buktas' goodwill, stock and trade marks from the receiver and has paid £875,000 cash at account while a stock-take is conducted.

Out of this about £400,000 is just for the goodwill and trade mark. He plans to build up Buktas' sportswear, starting with a range for racket sports where the style revolution ushered in long ago by Teddy Young has transformed the business.

While it used to be possible to wear the same tennis shirt year after year, nowadays you have to move with the times and all the major manufacturers jealously guard their spring collections like the great couture houses.

Stephen Marks and his award-winning co-designer Nicole Farin already have a fashion business that increased its profits from £3.2 million to £7.5 million last year. They have been itching to get into the sports world and the equally lucrative after-sports market of jog suits and loungers.

Under the "Buktas Connection" label he plans to take the old company into the 1990s and return it to profit very soon.

Sadly, he does not want the Stockport factory and the receiver is giving notice to 180 employees, although 50 skilled machinists have been taken on by Bestwood Bros, a Marks & Spencer supplier.

This is the second rescue of the old company, which used to make tents with the slogan "Braves the Elements" and was taken over by Sir Hugh Fraser bought it in 1982, and built up the sportswear side.

Last year it had a turnover of \$6 million but a combination of under-capitalisation and a few bad investments — both problems for which French Connection has a cure.

Growth up, but prices too

By Christopher Huhne, Economics Editor

The economy grew strongly in the first quarter of this year to record an increase over 12 months of 2.8 per cent despite the adverse effects of the miners' dispute, the Central Statistical Office said yesterday.

The underlying growth of Gross Domestic Product is put at 3.1 per cent on target with the Treasury's Budget forecast, and the news is that the broadest measure of home-generated inflation is also rising.

The rise in prices of all domestically produced goods and services — called the GDP deflator — is put at 5.8 per cent over the year to the first quarter, up from the average 4.6 per cent rate last year.

This apparent acceleration is all the more surprising since the GDP deflator measures the prices of goods sold between companies and warps, not consumers — but it excludes the prices of imports which were rising strongly because of the weak pound, now reversed.

The rise in prices between the fourth quarter of last year and the first quarter of 1985 was 2.3 per cent, the highest quarterly rate since 1981. The real growth of the economy over the quarter was estimated at 0.8 per cent on the average of the three different measures of income, expenditure, and output.

In theory, the three measures should be equal, though in practice they record different results. The expenditure measure of real GDP rose by 0.5 per cent in the first quarter, but consumers' spending fell by 1 per cent, but investment up 5.7 per cent, and exports up 1.7 per cent. Consumers' spending has now been virtually flat for a year.

The income measure of GDP rose by 0.8 per cent in real terms, and 3.1 per cent in money terms. Gross trading profits of companies proved the most buoyant element with a money increase of 8.8 per cent against only 1.9 per cent for income from employment. The output measure, taken to be the best guide to short-term movements in the economy, rose by 1.1 per cent between the fourth and first quarter with production, construction and transport all registering above average growth, but with distribution stable, and farming down.

The output measure of GDP is now 10.5 per cent above its level in the first quarter of 1981 and 3.6 per cent above its last peak in 1979. One of the factors behind increasing unemployment, however, is that much of the growth has been from North to South. Over the last year, total national output grew 3.2 per cent but non-oil output grew by 2.7 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE Prudential, one of the UK's biggest insurance firms, is moving into the Irish Republic with a £21.8 million takeover of Insurance Corporation of Ireland (I.C.I.), one of Ireland's leading unlinked life companies. Insurance Corporation of Ireland (I.C.I.) is a subsidiary of Insurance Corporation of Ireland which ran into trouble earlier this year and is in the hands of a government-appointed administrator.

PEERLESS, the Birmingham plastics and engineering group, has parted company with its financial director, Mr Ivor Taylor, and is actively seeking to recruit an "experienced commercial accountant" in his place, says the company. Peerless made an unexpectedly high loss of £1.8 million in its last financial year, ending March 31.

A typographical error confused our story yesterday on Britannia Airways' decision to seek a delay in its action against British Airways.

Balancing the benefit books

David Hencke spells out the details of the Government's annual uprating of social security benefits, announced in the Commons on Tuesday

TWELVE MILLION children will lose 35p of their projected 50p child benefit rise on November 25 as the benefit falls to keep pace with the annual inflation rate for the first time since 1980.

The cut in the value of the benefit, announced in the annual uprating of benefits by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary in the Commons on Tuesday, will mean that it will only rise 15p to £7 a week.

The other major change, which is much more complicated to predict—is that in the taper figure used for paying people rent rebates under the housing benefit system.

The increase in the rate taper—from 8p in the pound

£125 a week or more—with a number losing nearly £2 a week in benefit.

The exact figure for individual people will vary because it will depend on their rent and rates bills.

On the more positive side, the Government has protected pensioners, war pensioners, one-parent families, widows and the disabled.

The increase for pensioners takes the rate for a single person from £35.80 to £36.30 and for a married couple to £61.30.

The new rate for war widows goes up to £49.80, and attendance allowance rises to £30.60 a week, with mobility allowance rising to £21.40.

Those claiming invalidity benefit receive a 12 per cent rise—restoring a cut made five years ago—that brings them into line with pensioners.

Extra help will be given to a small number of people estimated to be only 250,000 out of 500,000 who could qualify—who claim Family Income Supplement. Those with children aged 11 to 15 receive an extra £2 per child and those with children aged 16 or more receive an extra £3 per child above the seven per cent inflation rate.

The help for families receiving the benefit also rises above seven per cent. Again it is difficult to quantify because it depends on wage rates and family commitments.

Changes in heating additions means that the Government is abolishing from August 5 the central heating addition claimed by nearly one million people. Existing claimants will still receive the £2.10 and £4.20 a week and see it rise by 10p and 20p respectively in November.

In compensation, those who become sick or disabled after November 25 will be entitled to claim the £2.20 basic heating addition already available to everybody over the age of 65.

Other changes in benefit include upratings for industrial injury benefits, the invalid care allowance and a rise to £53.60 in the widows' allowance—payable for the first 26 weeks after bereavement.

Supplementary benefit rises by only 5.1 per cent because housing costs are excluded, but unemployment benefit will rise by the full seven per cent taking the rate to £20.45 for a single person and £49.25 for a couple.

Those receiving help for special diets receive only a three per cent rise in benefits because ministers say food prices have kept below the general rate of inflation.

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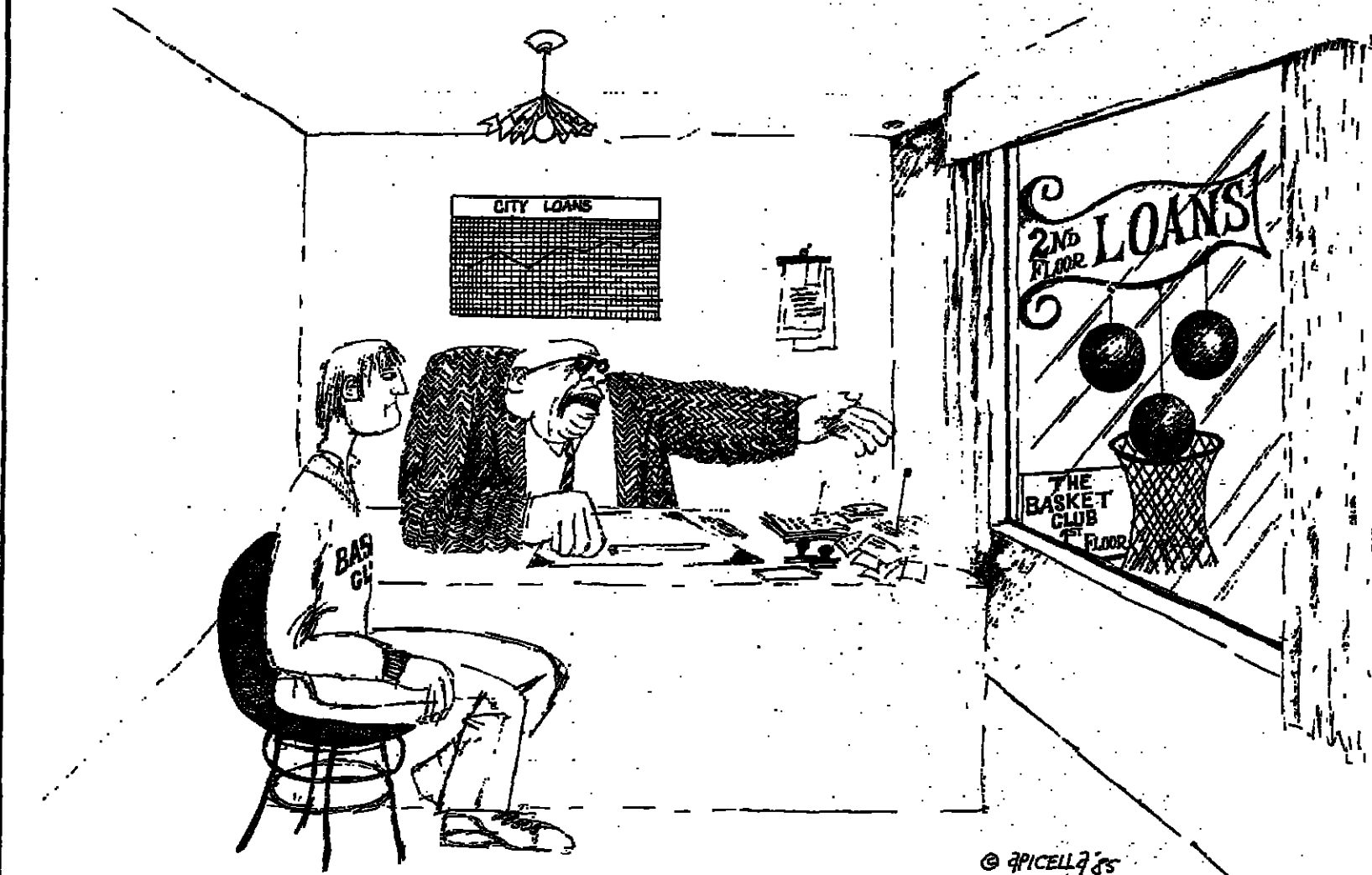
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For richer, for poorer

The Institute of Fiscal Studies has been doing some homework on Mr Fowler's behalf. Margaret Dibben reports on its breakdown of the new tax and benefit system and, below, its forecast of life after Serps

So, to help him with his sums the Institute for Fiscal Studies, which has a model of the tax and benefit system just as sophisticated as Mr Fowler's own, has worked out the calculations for him.

Of course, they do not have the mind of the Secretary for Social Security, so they have had to make certain assumptions, using the clues given in the Green Paper.

The result of this exercise is six main conclusions:

• there will be a significant shift of social security money from pensioners to those of working age.

• this is without taking into account the abolition of Serps which will further affect future pensioners.

• the pensioners who lose are better off than average but still relatively badly off.

• the resources will go entirely to families with below average earnings but among these it will be

the better off households who benefit rather than the poorest.

• the poverty trap will be eliminated but the cost will be paid by a larger number of families receiving only a minimal 7p more for earning an extra £1.

• significantly fewer families will fall into the unemployment trap, i.e. being better off on the dole than working.

Among working households and one parent families, the IFS reckons that the 85 per cent will be within 1 per cent of their existing income under the new proposals. At the extremes, 3 per cent will be 5 per cent or more poorer and 4 per cent will be 5 per cent or more better off.

When the figures are broken down according to the type of home, those renting privately would lose 37p a week and council tenants 13p. But anyone with a rent free home could gain 28p, and those with a mortgage 20p.

For pensioners and the unemployed, the proposed

changes will be good news for anyone with an income a little above the Supplementary Benefit level because they will be eligible to have all their housing costs met, apart from the first 20 per cent of rates which everyone will have to pay. But if they have slightly more than this, more people will lose out rather than gain.

An unemployed couple with children could be £1.13 better off, but an out of work single person 56p poorer; childless couples without jobs might be 23p worse off.

Among pensioners, 36 per cent will be within 1 per cent of their current position but 11 per cent could be at least 5 per cent worse off. Very few will be better off, with just 4 per cent getting an extra 5 per cent.

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For pensioners and the unemployed, the proposed

In brief: Claim form

AN aide memoire to Schedule D taxpayers (people with freelance income which is not taxed at source) you must pay up your second instalment due on the 1984-85 tax bill by July 1 or risk paying interest on the money. You can, however, still act to reduce the bill if you take out a personal pension based on the earnings. In fact, if you do set up one of these pensions, you can ask for the premium to be treated as though it were paid in the previous tax year and claim relief on it.

Sun Alliance has produced an example of how the tax saving works and gives a sample letter to write to the taxman claiming back relief. Even if tax has already been paid, you can ask for some of it back.

A visit from the taxman

WHAT can be more terrifying than a tax investigation? Accountants Armitage & Norton sent shivers down the spine this week by pointing out that the Inland Revenue is now devoting considerably more resources to PAYE investigations and this can result in substantial liabilities to anyone subjected to scrutiny.

To take some of the sting out, they have produced a free leaflet explaining some of the consequences of a visit from the taxman and the potential liabilities involved. Copies are available from Armitage & Norton at Hazlett House, 28 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AR.

Debited at the checkout

THE first significant step towards cashless shopping was taken last week with the announcement of pilot schemes, to start in the autumn, in Milton Keynes, Northampton, London and the south east.

The banks' aim is to have a national system of Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale (EFTPOS) available all over the country by 1988, enabling customers to use any plastic card as a machine substitute for the cash till. Those involved initially are Midland, National Westminster and the credit card companies Access and Visa.

Next week, Weekend money will explain just how this system of cashless shopping will operate.

The plastic in your pocket

IF YOU feel your wallet is already weighed down by quite enough plastic cards, be warned that more are on the way. A survey of personal finance by Mintel this week forecasts that over the next five years an extra one million credit cards a year will be issued, including names from General Motors and possibly Citicorp. The Marks & Spencer card alone has added three-quarters of a million new cards this year.

Moreover, these credit cards will become an almost essential element of shopping when the banks' plan for national electronic shopping goes into effect.

Less than one third of the adult population has a credit card and Mintel sees growth on all fronts for credit card companies.

We'll all pay more, some of us for a good deal less

THE Institute of Fiscal Studies, encouraged by its success with producing social security figures, conducted a similar exercise later in the week for the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps), which Mr Fowler plans to abolish.

They have come up with figures showing by how much National Insurance contributions will have to go up if the Government's plan to withdraw Serps does indeed go ahead. For those contracted out of the State scheme, contributions might rise from 10.85 per cent of salary to 11.5 per cent, including 4 per cent towards a pension.

Someone not contracted out

might pay 9.5 per cent, an extra 0.5 per cent which includes the 2 per cent towards a pension which the Green Paper sets down. The employer will also contribute 2 per cent.

Workers who will be 20 years old in 1987 would, if Serps continued, receive a pension from this source of £4,730 (at 1985 prices) when they retired. But with the phased abolition of Serps they will get £350 and, of course, will be making up the difference by paying at least 4 per cent of earnings into a private pension.

A 40 year old would have been earning £2,400 a year might get £1,680 whereas a 50 year old will get the same

amount, £2,330, because people of this age or more will stay on Serps.

The IFS estimates, however, that the investment of 4 per cent in a private pension will more or less make up the difference if you settle for a pension on one life only. A joint survivor indexed annuity that would provide a widow with a pension is far more expensive and, unless you spend more, your pension will be smaller than it would under Serps.

The broad conclusions are that those under the age of 40 will be worse off—as much as 30 per cent for people just starting work—and that widows' benefits will be substantially less generous.

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I/We wish to save £ a month in TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust (Minimum £15 a month) through a TSB Unitbuilder scheme and enclose my/our completed Bankers Order Form.

SEND NO MONEY NOW. (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms (For name)

Surname Address Postcode Date

Signature TSB Unitbuilder scheme is only open to investors who are 18 years of age or over. It is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

For Bank Branch use Please quote Reference No.

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مكتبة الامم

A wedding can damage your pension rights

Lindsay Cook on why love can come more expensive the second time around

THE wedding reception was much like any other: the bride and groom were dressed in their finery, with all the family there to congratulate them on finding happiness a second time around. But there was one important difference. The couple had not been through a wedding ceremony. They could not afford to.

The bride was the widow of a very successful businessman and was receiving a substantial pension from his company's scheme. But she had discovered that the pension would stop if she remarried, whereas it would continue if she simply lived with another man. Her new "husband" did not earn enough to replace the lost pension so they chose the latter course. Marrying in haste is definitely not advised as many widows in all sorts of financial circumstances. Living together may not be so romantic as a wedding, but when it comes to paying the bills there's often no choice.

Both employers' and state pensions for widows may be lost and the right to an old age pension at 60 can disappear with a walk down the aisle for the second time. This means a few calculations need to be made before a widow allows herself to be swept off her feet.

The problem is that the state, and some company pension schemes, feel that a new husband should take on all financial responsibility for his bride and thus all the pension contributions made by the former husband are wiped out.

And in some cases a widow can lose out by getting married again. So far as employers' pension schemes are concerned, the public sector tends to be hardest on its widows. It is quite common for a widow's pension to stop if she remarries or if she lives with a man. In the private sector this is much less likely to happen, although some schemes are happy for one of their widows to live with a man, but not to remarry.

The trustees of private pension schemes are anxious that the widow should not be left in poverty but the administrators of the public schemes feel they are dealing with public funds and that the widow should look to her next husband for an income.

A company pension scheme may stop paying out to a widow when she remarries, but decide to start paying her again if her second husband should also die.

In this way a widow can go from no pension to three: her first husband's pension, reinstated, her second husband's company pension and a state pension based on her second husband's contributions.

But, equally, she might be left with just the state pension because some schemes do not pay a widow's pension to a woman who was not the wife of an employee when he retired.

The National Association of Pension Funds annual survey shows that 74 per cent of schemes — mostly in the private sector — do award widows' pensions for life, while 18 per cent stop paying on remarriage and 10 per cent either stop paying if the remarriage is before the age of 60 or may review the case depending on the financial position of the new husband.

To add to the complicated calculations, the introduction of widower's pensions by an increasing number of schemes in recent years means that men may also lose the pension that their spouse's contributions earned for them. Marriage could result in two company pensions being lost.

National insurance contributions made by a widow's husband cannot be used to pay for retirement pension for her at 60 if she remarries, but she will still get her pension if she lives with a man instead.

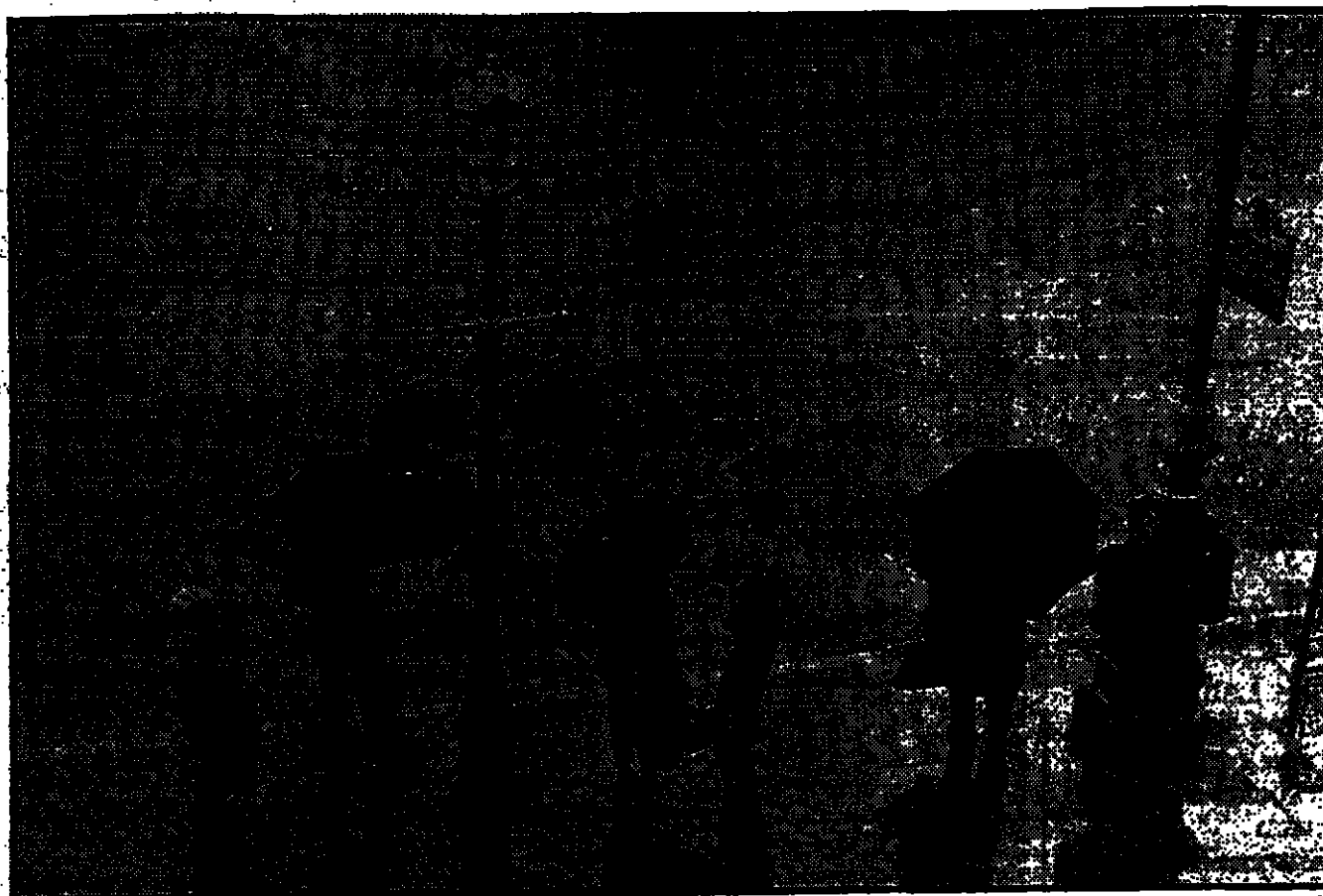
After marrying again a widow would have to wait until her new husband reached the age of 65 and then he would only be able to claim the lower married woman's pension for her on his contribution, which is £14.30 a week less than the single person's pension. If she had worked and made full national insurance contributions herself then a full pension could be hers.

The widow's pension is lost by a woman while she is cohabiting, but could be reinstated if the relationship failed. The old age pension would also be paid automatically when she reached 80 and cannot then be taken away, whatever she does. But if she remarries before 80 the right to the widow's pension and to use her first husband's contributions is just for good.

Those widows who decide to go ahead and marry again, either before or after 60, should think about making a will. Marriage automatically revokes any previous will, so a new one needs to be drawn up to put the second straight.

Otherwise the mistakes that would operate and the new spouse would have first claim on the first £25,000 of the estate and a life interest in half of the residue.

In some cases this could mean that all of a widow's worldly goods would pass to her new husband and subsequently upon his death to his children and not hers.



Rainfall substantial: but how do you calculate the right insurance level?

If it rains on your parade

David Worsfold goes into insurance against the worst the weather can do to your social calendar

The rain it raineth on the just, And also on the unjust fella, But chiefly on the just because, The unjust steals the just's umbrella.

LORD Bowen's words must sometimes haunt the organisers of worthy summer events intended to raise money for many a charitable cause. Few things can be more distressing for the organiser of the church fete than to wake up on the morning of the great day and find the bedroom curtains open only to be greeted with greying skies.

Some comfort can be found in a plusvius insurance policy, however. Plusvius is the rather quaint name that the insurance industry uses to describe insurance policies that cover the organisers of fete, garden parties, sports days, horse shows, open air plays, car boot sales and so on against cancellation or curtailment due to rain.

There are a wide variety of different types of policy available, but one company, Eagle Star, has dominated the market for plusvius insurance for many years. In most cases their policies are based on a certain level of rainfall being reached during the hours when the success of the event is most likely to be affected and they divide events up into

three categories: those likely to be disrupted by light rainfall; those likely to suffer from moderate rainfall; and those that will be hit only when the rainfall is substantial.

For instance, an open air play would usually fall into the first category. The policy would pay out the full sum assured only when there was more than 0.08 of an inch of rainfall. Between 0.08in and 0.08in the policy pays out 60 per cent of the sum assured and this drops to 30 per cent if the rainfall is between 0.08in and 0.08in.

The most important question, of course, is how do you calculate the right level of insurance? The minimum amount of cover will be the net expenses of the event, while the maximum cover, for which you would normally

seek insurance, is the anticipated receipts, based on previous events, less the income that is accumulated before the event from advance programme sales, etc.

Plusvius insurance also covers sporting events such as cricket matches and tennis tournaments which depend for their income on the length of time for which play is possible. Mixtures of heavy overnight rain or bad light on the day of play could lead to a substantial loss of income and are "catastrophes" that can be insured against.

For those living north of Hadrian's Wall there are policies that cover you against not having enough bad weather! Scottish fishermen often suffer from a deficiency of rain that can severely affect the size and quality of a catch. To insure against this unfor-

tunate difficulty you have to nominate a particular rain station and a two-week period.

You need to bear in mind one or two practical points when buying plusvius cover for your event. The first is that you should book your insurance at least two weeks before the event in question because medium range weather forecasts for less than two weeks are nowadays fairly accurate and, therefore, booking within this period can put the cost of insurance up.

The second is that you should not expect your money back if it does not rain on the appointed day. Stories abound in the insurance industry about irate vicars ringing up the day after their fete to claim their premium back from the insurance company because it did not rain!

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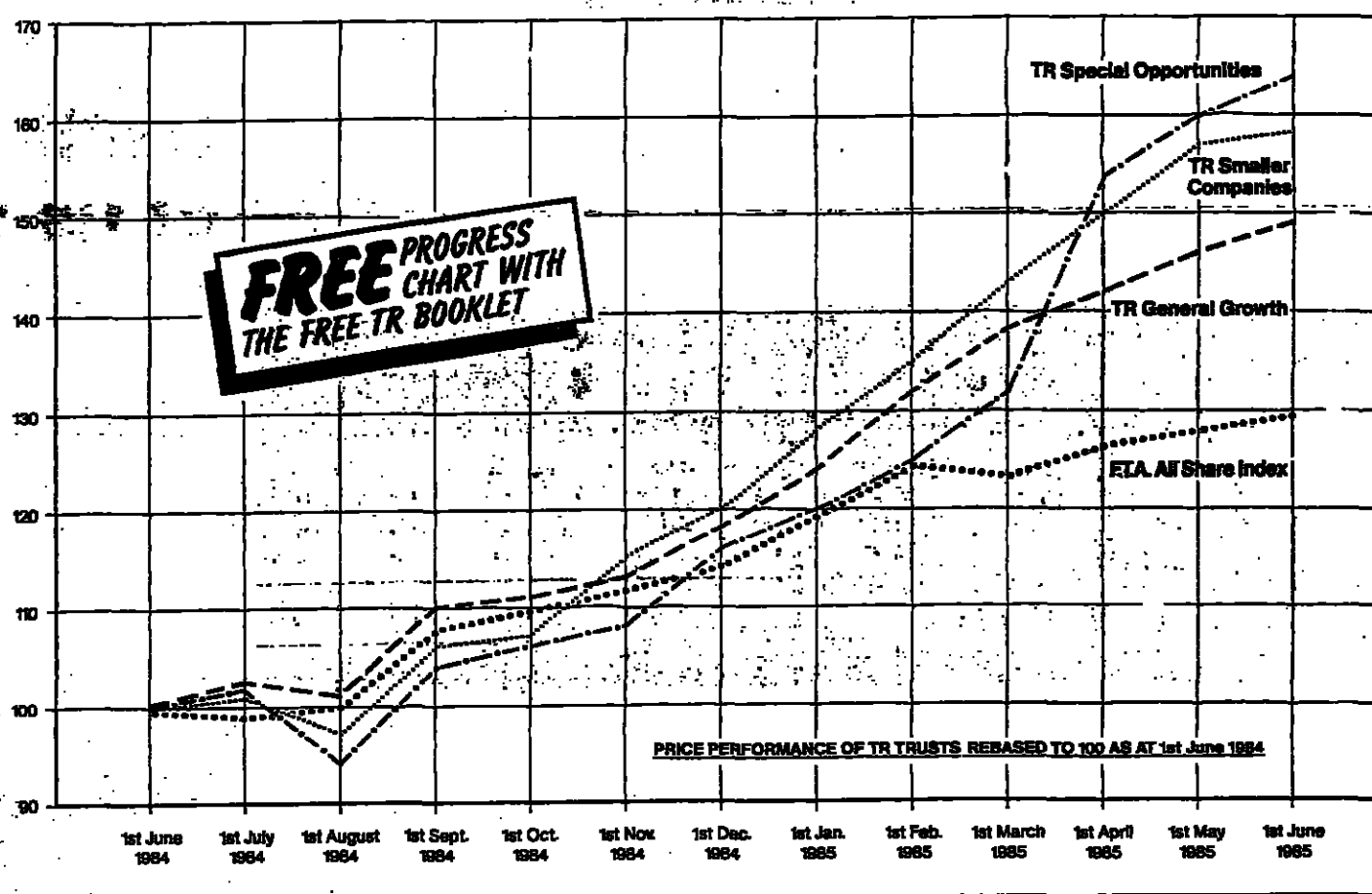
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TR General Growth Fund rises by 51.3%

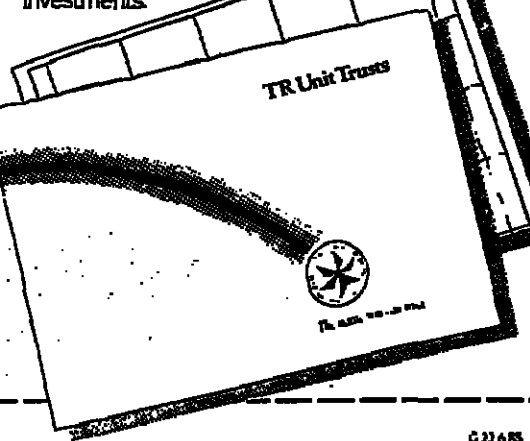
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MANY PEOPLE have a story to tell about the meanness of the previous owner of their house. Folk quite prepared to pay out £1,500 and more on estate agents, solicitors, and surveyors when they move houses are equally capable of removing all the light bulbs and taking the door chimes and the door handle when they leave, to save a few pounds at the other end. The big bills, however, are the bills of moving are not, so buyers need to beware when they are seeking a new home and check just what is going to be left behind.

Otherwise, when the house is finally theirs, they could find bookshelves, curtain rails, TV aerial, and even the kitchen sink have been removed. The garden shed or greenhouse could, quite legally, have been packed in to it if it was a free-standing model without foundations.

Just what you get for your money when you move has caused much discussion and litigation over the years. If an item is included in the estate agent's details, it should be included in the sale — but that still leaves a great deal of room for misunderstanding.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors acknowledges there are a great many grey areas. The seller decides what items are included in the sale and what are not, and it is up to the buyer to establish what these are. Some items are regarded as part of the fixtures, such as electric sockets and lamp sockets, although I did hear of one couple who moved in to find not only the light bulbs removed, but also the ceiling roses. A fitted kitchen with built-in ovens, dishwasher, and fridge would be regarded as part of the property, but any freestanding machines would not. And the kitchen sink is not necessarily part of the house. If it can be removed without leaving holes in the plaster, it can go, according to the RICS. Fitted cupboards are regarded as uncertain: if it reached court,

Just what you get for your money when you move house can cause trouble. Lindsay Cook warns prospective buyers and sellers of some of the pitfalls

Beware, even the kitchen sink could go

a judge might rule either way as to whether they should have been left behind or not. The garden can also be a source of dispute. While the buyer can expect to be left the bulk of what is in the garden, the seller is at liberty to exclude anything.

If the owner intends to take the rose bed, he should mention it, especially if it is a feature of the garden. Statues are another grey area. If it came to court one judge might agree that the owner has the right to take a statue with them to the new home, while another would say it should have remained.

Nowadays, most vendors tend to make it clear whether they are including the carpets and curtains in the sale price

or intend to sell them for an extra sum, but a great deal else is left unclear. There's no dispute over the keys to a house: they belong to the new owner as the locks would not work without them. But as far as everything else is concerned, once an offer is accepted, the buyer and seller should tour the house sorting out what is staying and what is going.

Fifty meannesses can cause a great deal of ill feeling with the buyer, who after all can be useful when it comes to re-directing mail and giving callers your new telephone number. Far better than leaving them in the dark, without a single light bulb to save a couple of pounds, would be to make real savings on the

basic business of moving. Solicitors have become much more competitive with the spectre of licensed conveyancers, and their prices have fallen on average by about 30 per cent over the last 18 months. It is always worth ringing round a few firms to find out what they would charge for the legal work concerned with the sale of your old property and purchase of a new one. One good firm advertises regularly that they can undertake both transactions for a flat fee of £250, whatever the price of the properties concerned.

Estate agents are also facing competition from department stores, property shops, and franchise operations, and their fees often

reflect this. In the North of England an estate agent may charge 1 per cent of the sale price, plus the advertising costs, in return for sole agency on the property. In the South-east the fee is likely to be 2 per cent or more, but advertising costs would be included.

Surveyors' fees on a typical three-bedroom semi can vary from firm to firm and the best bargains are got from ringing around. A building society valuation on such a property could cost £70, while a house buyer's report and valuation might be £150 and a full structural survey could be £300.

Old hands in the house selling business reckon that a few pounds can go a long way when it comes to making a good impression. A few bunches of flowers or healthy pot plants create a good impression with any prospective buyer. A vanilla pod wafting its fragrance from the kitchen gives the small investments usually of time, which pay dividends when it comes to making a home look cared for.

NOTES

Repairs for PRC homes

THE FIRST fruits of the unsatisfactory Building Defects Act are emerging with the announcement by the National House Building Council of a new body intended to approve repair systems for the various types of pre-cast reinforced concrete (PRC) dwellings covered by the legislation.

Under the Act, local authorities are obliged to provide money for the repair or the replacement of various types of PRC homes which have been sold to former council tenants under the Right to Buy scheme.

The new body, PRC Homes, will approve applications for suitable repair systems from prospective repairers and designers from the beginning of July. After the repair schemes have been approved, owners of defective PRC homes will be able to get a list of approved repairers when they apply to local authorities for assistance. Remedial work undertaken will be approved and insured by the NHBC and will be acceptable to the Building Societies Association for mortgage purposes. The NHBC says that the first repairs will be completed under the scheme by the winter.

Foothold

EVERYONE and his dog seems to want to get into the property business. Over the past couple of weeks the Prudential, Britain's biggest insurance group, has acquired a firm of estate agents, while the first Solicitors Property Centre in England opened in Crawley offering a one-stop property buying and selling service.

The Pru is taking over the Huntingdon-based Hicks Daley and Handley which will become part of Prudential Property Services. The aim, says the Pru, is to get a foothold in the estate agency business with the possibility of expansion if the experiment proves successful. Meanwhile the Solicitors Property Centre aims to offer a complete property service conducted in one move by solicitors who combine selling of a property with legal services. The centre will undertake estate agency fees with a 1½ per cent sale charge including legal costs.

Tim Roberts

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Liverpool appeal against 'severe' cup ban

By Patrick Barclay

Liverpool and Juventus are to appeal against the punishment handed out in response to the crowd violence at the European Cup final in which 38 people died.

Liverpool, already subject to the indefinite ban of English clubs from European competition, were told by the Union of European Football Associations that they would be unable to participate for a further three seasons at least, while Juventus were ordered to play their next two European matches behind closed doors. The Belgian organisers of the game in Brussels in May were banned from staging European final for 10 years.

Mr John Smith, the Liverpool chairman, said last night that the sentence was extremely severe and that there were very strong grounds for appeal. Liverpool had not been allowed to submit any appeal.

If the punishments were upheld the effect on the club would be commercially catastrophic. "We could find ourselves in a very, very serious position."

Liverpool's sponsors, Crown Paints, are reviewing their agreement and a deal with Adidas was recently renewed with the intention of exploiting the European market for replica kit and other products.

The President of Juventus, Mr Giampiero Boniperti, said: "It seems an excessive measure against our team."

Liverpool will continue their campaign to gain at least a partial reprieve by accepting an invitation to appear before a Belgian parliamentary commission next Wednesday. They will be represented by the club solicitor, Mr Tony Ensor, a recent addition to the board.

Liverpool count cost. Page 17



SHELLEY Preston, above, a 21-year-old part-time singer, was tipped yesterday to replace Jay Aston in the Bucks Fizz pop group after a London audition.

Owen calls for closer nuclear link with France

By David McKie, Parliamentary Correspondent

The SDP leader, Dr David Owen, called yesterday for closer collaboration between Britain and France on nuclear weapons. Perhaps the most important issue, he said, was to reconsider the decision taken earlier in the decade not to pursue the European cruise missile option.

Dr Owen, speaking at Fontainebleau, said it had been inevitable that there would be little scope for nuclear cooperation until France had caught up with and even surpassed British nuclear capacity. But decisions could now be made on an equal footing with no French sense of inferiority.

In recent years a slow and tentative dialogue had begun between France and Germany on some aspects of nuclear strategy. There was cooperation between Britain and France on conventional de-

fence equipment. And there was a clear common interest when Britain and France were both nuclear powers in examining the issues together.

"It is ludicrous that the nuclear issue, and bilateral cooperation and collaboration, is not a major agenda item every time that a French president and British Prime Minister meet to discuss political issues," he said.

The two countries ought to take practical steps to enhance, by mutual action, the credibility of each other's deterrents. "We need to see if there is scope for sharing knowledge and to avoid duplicating costs, whether there could be sharing of equipment manufacture, or whether there would be advantages in some informal linkage over targeting."

"Both the British and French governments will over the next 15 years be spending significant proportions of their de-

fence budget on nuclear weapons. On cost grounds alone these nuclear weapons represent a significant area of common concern."

It was an indictment of the way these two countries still saw their European destiny that there had been so little mutual discussion before Britain again bound itself to the US, possibly for the next 30 years, with the procurement link to Trident.

"Why was there no discussion about Britain sharing in the development of, and possibly acquiring, the French submarine ballistic missile? Why no Anglo-French discussion about a European cruise, whether sea, air or ground launched, particularly when there was Franco-German discussion?"

"The answer is that, neither country has made the key decision dictated by our common destiny to co-operate on nuclear matters. It is high time we did."

Another £1.1m for London job board

By David McKie, Parliamentary Correspondent

The local government minister, Mr Kenneth Baker, agreed yesterday to allow the GLC to provide additional short-term funding of £1.1 million to the Greater London Enterprise Board (Gleb).

The board which had been looking for a further £4.1 million on top of £8.1 million already available to fund its plans, had some things in its submission disallowed while uncertainty remains about its future.

Mr Baker said that he would not consent to funding for Gleb in the second half of the financial year until it was known what the arrangements would be for accountability after the GLC was abolished.

There was relief yesterday at the board which was satisfied that it had now got the authorisation it needed to support its existing 280 enterprises employing about 3,500 people. Mr Baker has approved £2.1 million to sustain the board's five technological networks.

The outcome of the further provision for the second half of the financial year hangs on talks with the London boroughs.

The board's director of information, Mr John Palmer, said last night: "This is a clear signal to the London boroughs from the Government that they accept that Gleb is here to stay."

The board had initially been hoping for additional money to finance a further 20 new projects, and an estimated 1,000 jobs. It was already clear when it was announced yesterday that that would not be approved.

No offer to quit by Bank governor

By Hannah McRae, Financial Editor

The governor of the Bank of England, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, did not offer his resignation to the Prime Minister after the failure of Bank supervision over Johnson Matthey Bankers, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, while criticising the Bank of England severely in the House of Commons on Thursday, has accepted that the rescue was within the responsibilities of the Bank. He has not censured the governor in private.

It is also understood that no senior Bank of England officials have offered their resignations. The Chancellor's criticism of the Bank supervision department's performance.

It accepts that its failure to inform the Treasury that it was depositing £100 million with JMB after it had been rescued was highly unfortunate. It was politically naive not to appreciate that this deposit, subsequently converted into capital, would be regarded as an injection of additional public money. It believes that it will get this injection back in full with the release of the private sector.

Further criticism of the Bank came yesterday from Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's trade spokesman. He said it had greater loyalty to the banking industry than to the country as a whole, and he called for it to be brought under much tighter control.

The Johnson Matthey fiasco had been too slack in its supervision and "too ready to use public funds to bail out a failed bank when things went wrong."

Saturday Notebook, page 20

3,500 call off Stonehenge visit for summer solstice

Policemen turn hippy camp into no-go area

By David Rose

Police sealed off the hippy camp site at Bratton Castle, Wiltshire, last night, allowing people to leave the site. No one, including journalists, was being allowed in.

Earlier, sodden and sliding on mud after a night of heavy rain, about 3,500 hippies decided not to visit Stonehenge for the summer solstice after all.

Mr Clive Soley, the Labour home affairs spokesman, said that he was appalled at the latest moves being taken against them.

Mr Soley and the National Council for Civil Liberties said that the blanket road blockades were unlawful. Police had no power to stop cars without reasonable grounds for believing that an offence would be committed by their occupants. The people and the spirit are here.

There had been other factors besides the weather. A police helicopter flew low over the camp, making pass after pass with a powerful spot lamp. A group of hippies, some with radio tuned to the police communication channel, it told of cars checked with the Swansea licensing centre and the police national computer, and of names and addresses of those stopped on the road.

Police ran through a questionnaire with drivers stopped at road blocks around Stonehenge. The checks provided a lot of intelligence.

The 50 or 60-strong group "pagans for peace," which had marched to Stonehenge from London was allowed as far as the perimeter fence after signing an undertaking that it would not start a festival.

Wiltshire police said that three additional forces and 1,045 of their own men had been on duty during the night, with further reserves on standby.

Picture, page 2

THE GUARDIAN PRIZE PUZZLE 17,269

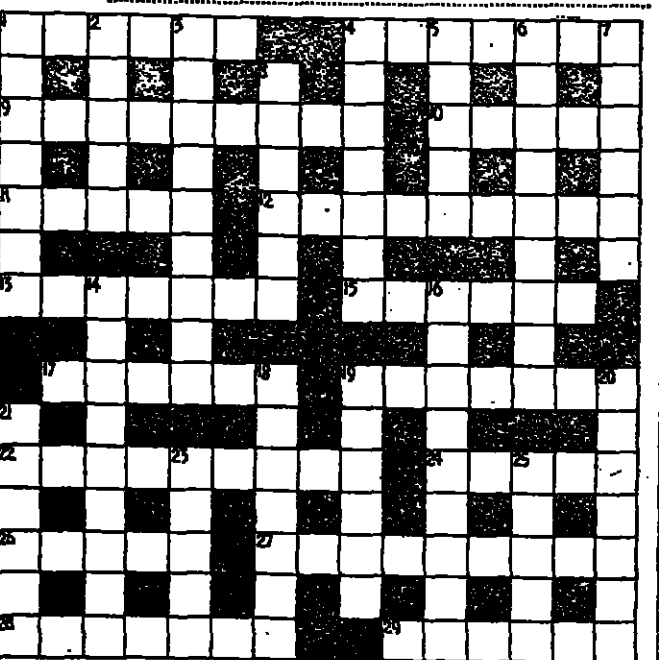
ACROSS

16 letters (3 words) should really occur in the answers to the Across clues - the first in 1, the second in 4, and so on in the correct order up to the last letter, which should occur in 23. All these letters must be omitted from the diagram and entered along the line beneath this introduction. Each clue consists of two definitions, one for the unutilised letter, the other for the mutilated answer entered in the diagram; numbers in brackets indicate which is which. Example clue: Close call (4, 5); Answer: SHOOT. All down clues are normal.

A £20 cash prize will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution opened, and three book tokens, each of £10, for the next three. Send your entry to Guardian Prize Crossword No. 17,269, The Guardian, 164 Deansgate, Manchester M60 2RR, to arrive not later than first post on Thursday, next week. Solution and winners' names in The Guardian on Monday, July 1.

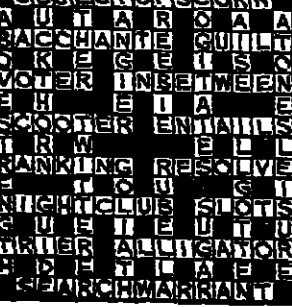
Name.....

Address.....



- ACROSS
- 1 An orderly cricket (6, 7).
 - 4 Having no match uncult (8, 7).
 - 9 Seconds dismissals? (10, 9).
 - 10 One who scores a run (3, 6).
 - 11 To shout 'How's that?' to terrify (8, 5).
 - 12 Shots on the green? - coach wanders around (10; 3, 6).
 - 13 Those who photograph the regulars (8, 7).
 - 15 Tormenting wasting away (7, 6).
 - 17 Stopped wandering (6, 7).
 - 19 Those trying to catch the swimmers? (7, 8).
 - 22 The state of a rustic enclosure (9, 10).
 - 24 Company irony (6, 5).
 - 26 Succeeds in looking for runs (6, 5).
 - 27 Parts of the terrace have groups watching the play (4, 6; 3, 6).
- DOWN
- 1 Local regulations say LBW rule finally amended (3-4).
 - 2 Contemplative cad cutting end of cable from poor Peter West? (5).
 - 3 Alertly, I run out the big runs (9).
 - 4 Pat runs all over the place to loosen up (7).
 - 5 Wild slam after quiet start - it's in the blood (5).
 - 6 Bouquet one leader would give one for 100? (3).
 - 7 Endures successfully showing constraint (6).
 - 8 100 in front and the sun breaks through (6).
 - 14 Allowances made for new cap in Test (9).
 - 18 Bat, perhaps, disconcerted by flight now (5-6).
 - 19 Recklessly getting out - used to be obedient (7).
 - 20 No particular player as many on edge will show (6).
 - 21 'Complaints' producer to write in the Sundays about upset (7).
 - 21 A light shower - I run inside for grit (6).
 - 22 Way to get a Man out in the deep? (5).
 - 23 Opening presents on Sunday - English leader of Tykes? (5).

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,268



American TV watch

Continued from page one

phones. The rooms swarm with the 30 full-time staff down in the story, as well as countless drivers, translators, and the all-purpose local fixers without whom no big TV network can operate.

The media grapevine says that ABC is spending \$100,000 a day.

"This is one of those times when the cost is not a real problem," says Charles Glass. "In London they won't let us pay £2 for a taxi ride."

ABC did not, they insist, slip \$3,000 to Amal officials in exchange for Wednesday morning's exclusive interview with John Testa, the TWA pilot still on the plane. But one of their rivals, they

say, really did offer \$5,000 for the same deal straight afterwards. Larry Winkler, a CBS correspondent, was shut at while trying to approach the Boeing.

That coup, says Charles Glass, was simply the result of normal journalistic work. "I kept ringing Nabih Berri and went back to the Amal office every few hours. The other networks were screaming. We did not pay any money and it's the worst form of sour grapes to say so."

Ray Nunn, an ABC producer who used to be based in Beirut, is not worried by the rumours of hard cash changing hands. "Everyone gets beaten sooner or later at some point in the story. The TWA pilot still on the plane, he's simply to regroup," he says.

Anti-US riot at Beirut

Continued from page one

Western world on the continuing TWA crisis, Beirut newspapers gave greater prominence yesterday to the so far successful attempt to implement the Syrian-sponsored agreement ending a month of bloody fighting between Amal and Palestinian guerrillas in the refugee camps at Sabra, Chatila, and Burj al-Barajneh.

The papers here also carried

extensive reports on the aftermath of the car bomb explosion which killed 75 people in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli late on Wednesday night. The city had just recovered from a fortnight of clashes between the pro-Syrian Arab democratic Party and the Tawhid Islamic Unification Movement. A Tawhid leader described the attack as part of an "American-Israeli conspiracy."

MPs take part of tobacco firms, says professor

A cancer researcher claimed yesterday that some MPs were being paid to block laws restricting tobacco advertising, though he admitted he had no proof.

Professor Julian Peto, of the Institute of Cancer Research, said bills in the Commons were lost before they could even be debated, though they had the support of most MPs. He claimed that one MP had

joined other members in tabling so many amendments to one bill that a subsequent bill to restrict tobacco advertising was lost.

He said most MPs supported anti-smoking legislation, but a minority was campaigning to stop legislation being passed. "I would like to know how much the MPs are being paid and who is paying them. It is a public scandal."

Professor Peto claimed that MPs with close links with the tobacco industry "would go to almost any lengths to prevent effective legislation."

A 1981 private member's bill to restrict tobacco advertising was widely expected to be passed, but a number of MPs tabled more than 100 amendments to a preceding bill about private zoos, and the tobacco advertising bill was lost.

Professor Peto was speaking at the London launch of a Cancer Research Campaign video in which Not the Nine O'Clock News stars Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones appear in a schoolchildren not to smoke. He conceded that he had no evidence that MPs were being paid to block bills, but said: "It would astound me if they were not getting some financial benefit."

THE WEATHER

Outbreaks of rain

A DEPRESSION which is expected to be centred in the Irish Sea will move slowly NW, bringing rain to the south of the British Isles.

London: SE, gust S, E, SW, NW, and S, rain, heavy at times, with strong gusts, rain, heavy at times, with strong gusts, rain, heavy at times, with strong gusts.

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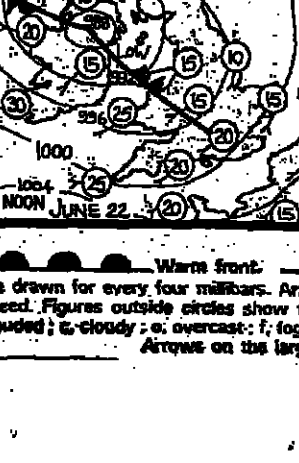
London: SE, gust S, E, SW, NW, and S, rain, heavy at times, with strong gusts, rain, heavy at times, with strong gusts, rain, heavy at times, with strong gusts.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Edinburgh	14.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Birmingham	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Cardiff	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Manchester	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Nottingham	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Leeds	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Sheffield	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Blackpool	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Liverpool	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Newcastle	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Glasgow	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Belfast	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Cardiff	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
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Leeds	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Sheffield	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Blackpool	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Liverpool	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Newcastle	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Glasgow	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Belfast	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5

AROUND BRITAIN

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Edinburgh	14.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Birmingham	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Cardiff	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Manchester	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Nottingham	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Leeds	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Sheffield	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Blackpool	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Liverpool	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Newcastle	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Glasgow	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Belfast	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Cardiff	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Manchester	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Nottingham	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Leeds	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Sheffield	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Blackpool	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Liverpool	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Newcastle	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Glasgow	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Belfast	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5



WEST COAST

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Edinburgh	14.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Birmingham	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Cardiff	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Manchester	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Nottingham	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Leeds	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Sheffield	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Blackpool	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Liverpool	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Newcastle	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Glasgow	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Belfast	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Cardiff	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Manchester	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Nottingham	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Leeds	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Sheffield	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Blackpool	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Liverpool	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Newcastle	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Glasgow	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5
Belfast	15.5	10-15	1-2	1015.5